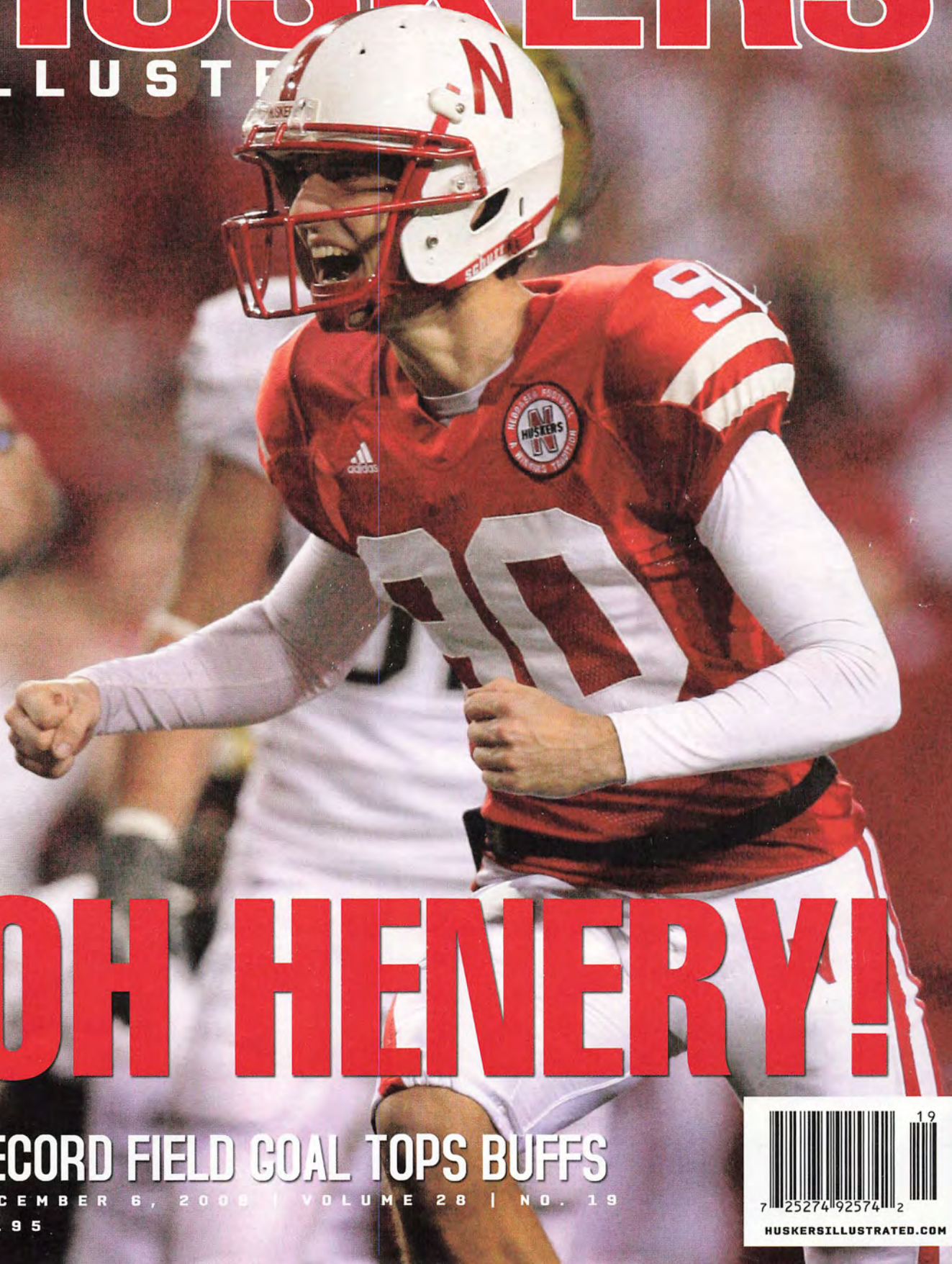


# HUSKER HOOPS PREVIEW

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



# OH HENERY!

## RECORD FIELD GOAL TOPS BUFFS

DECEMBER 6, 2008 | VOLUME 28 | NO. 19

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Volume 29, Issue 1 previewing the Husker bowl game will be mailed on Monday, Dec. 15. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

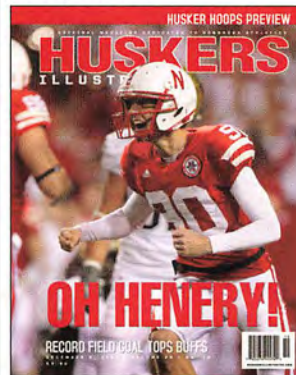
## HUSKERS

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ON THE COVER

Alex Henery sent Memorial Stadium fans into a frenzy after kicking a school-record 57-yard field goal to give the Huskers a 33-31 advantage over Colorado, en route to its eighth win of the season.

Photo by Scott Bruhn





## SAVING A SEASON

Record kick prevents disappointment



On Senior Day at Memorial Stadium, it was a sophomore who stole the show.

Fans and experts alike had this game chalked up as a sure-fire win. After all, Nebraska entered the contest as a heavy favorite. But we should know by now, Nebraska-Colorado is never what you expect.

Nebraska fans know the story by now.

The Cornhuskers found themselves in a dogfight with the Buffs, despite dominating the ground game and chewing up the clock in lopsided fashion.

Trailing 31-30, Joe Ganz was sacked, leaving the Huskers with a 4th-and-25 at the Colorado 40-yard line with 1:50 remaining.

Timeout Nebraska.

While many Husker fans were screaming about clock management, the timeout gave Bo Pelini time to ask sophomore place kicker Alex Henery an important question.

"I just wanted (Alex Henery) to look me in the face and tell me he felt he had it in him," Pelini said.

Turns out it might have been the best use of a timeout of the season because it set up one of the most dramatic kicks in Nebraska football history.

Henery didn't disappoint, powering a 57-yard field goal through the north goal posts, sending fans into delirium. And for good reason. It was the kick that saved Nebraska's season.

Sound over the top? Maybe.

Is it fair to judge the success of a season based on one game? Probably not.

But as euphoric as Husker Nation felt after the victory, it's safe to say fans would have felt equally deflated after losing the game.

After high hopes of attending the Gator Bowl, Nebraska would surely have been demoted in the bowl selection process with a 7-5 record and a bad loss to the Buffs. Not to mention a 7-5 record was a far cry from the team's original goal.

Instead, Nebraska unveiled a come-from-behind victory in front of a frenzied crowd and a national television audience, making impressions on a number of prized recruits.

But perhaps the most important part of the victory was the sendoff for a unique senior class. After everything this year's group of seniors endured during their careers, a loss to Colorado just didn't seem fair.

It would be a much better fate if were the building blocks to a bright future and made the first steps in restoring Nebraska's proud tradition.

Only time will tell what kind of building blocks they left behind, but at least they can leave knowing they did their part. **N**

*Send us your comments or story ideas to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com).*

## HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

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# Big Red Mailbag

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS!!** Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. **IF WE PRINT YOUR LETTER, WE'LL SEND YOU A SPECIAL HUSKER GIFT!** Send digital photos and letters to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com) and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.



## MISSISSIPPI HUSKER

I've been a loyal Nebraska fan for over 35 years. I've also been a *Huskers Illustrated* subscriber since around the mid-80s. *Huskers Illustrated* is how I keep with Nebraska. The new look magazine is amazing and very informative. I like everything in the magazine especially the future football schedules and the recruiting notebook. I also really enjoy the glossy photos in the magazine.

I'm probably one of

the biggest Husker fans in Mississippi. I've also been fortunate enough to attend a few Nebraska football games and one basketball game. As you can imagine there are not many Husker fans in Mississippi, but I still wear Nebraska red. Thanks for the magazine and Go Big Red!

The picture is of my brother and I at my last Husker game in 2006.

**DWAYNE ALES**  
Batesville, Miss.



## Cornhead Corner

definition: **CORNHEAD**, corn-head - noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



**JEREMY BROWN** of Pueblo West, Colo., is pictured with his kids Matthew, Jackson and Emma in his office. Jeremy is a native of Broken Bow, while his wife, Amy (not pictured) grew up in Merna. Both attended Nebraska from 1992-97 and

"Although we live well behind enemy lines in Pueblo, Colo., we still enjoy attending several home games. Even when we can't make a game, the kids enjoy listening to the Tunnel Walk on our way to a game party," Brown writes.

The Browns' Husker room is "a work in progress" but includes frames Sports Illustrated covers and memorabilia from Bob Devaney to Bo Pelini.

**ARE YOU A CORNHEAD?** Send us your story along with a photo to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com) and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

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# 2MinuteDrill



## GREAT NATE

**H**e's not flashy, perhaps. But **NATE SWIFT** is certainly a reliable receiver, already ranking first on Nebraska's all-time list in career catches. And going into the Colorado game, he needed only 46 receiving yards to climb past **JOHNNY RODGERS** on the school's career list.

In addition, Swift was second to Rodgers in career touchdown receptions and career 100-yard receiving games. Rodgers had 25 and 10, respectively, to Swift's 20 and 8.

A key to Swift's success is his ability as a route-runner, according to quarterback **JOE GANZ**. "He's really good at getting open," Ganz said early in the season. "He's not the fastest guy. He's not the quickest guy. But he probably runs the best routes out of all of them.

"He knows how to get open. There's a

difference between having sprinter's speed or being a football player and being able to get open on a football field. That's what Nate's really good at. He's really good at getting off the line, and he's really good at finding voids and settling in those voids, understanding the game, understanding what coverage it is."

Route running has been a point of emphasis since he arrived at Nebraska, said Swift, who played running back his senior year at Hutchinson, Minn., High School.

He played running back out of necessity. "I always wanted to play receiver," he said. "I always told everybody that came and recruited me I wanted to play receiver.

"And I just felt like that was a natural position for me."

In any case, he has worked hard at getting open. "Coach (**TED**) **GILMORE** has

talked about that: Expect man and react to zone," Swift said. "That's one thing I've always kind of prided myself on is just figuring out what the defense is doing, whether they're in man or zone."

His route-running and receiving ability may give him an opportunity to continue at the next level. WalterFootball.com recently ranked him No. 41 among draft-eligible receivers and projected him as a seventh-round pick. FFToolbox projected him as fifth-round pick.

WalterFootball.com, which listed his 40 speed at 4.53, ranked Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree first among receivers and projected him as a Top 10 pick, with Maryland's Darrius Heyward-Bey second and Missouri's Jeremy Maclin third. All three are underclassmen.



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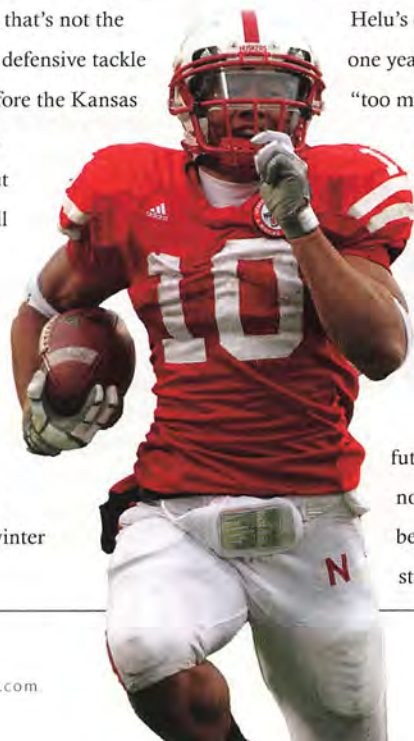
**OFFENSIVE EVOLUTION:** Nebraska's offense has evolved under coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** this season. The change was probably most dramatic following the loss against Missouri.

"You've got to kind of evolve as the season goes on as you become more familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of your team. I think the offense has evolved and continued to evolve, and he's done a good job of keeping defenses off-balance," coach Bo Pelini said of Watson. "We have a good mix of run and pass, and I think we present a lot of problems for defenses."

In fact, Watson has "done a great job," Pelini said.

## NO PRO YET

**NDAMUKONG SUH** has played consistently well this season, according to coach **BO PELINI**, fueling talk of the possibility of his submitting his name for the NFL draft and bypassing his senior season. However, "as of right now, that's not the plan," the junior defensive tackle said the week before the Kansas State game. "I'm just all here about Nebraska football and ending this season the way it's supposed to end, moving forward and getting ready for spring ball and winter conditioning."



## RUGBY, TOO

Before his freshman season, I-back **ROY HELU, JR.** was asked to compare his running style to that of someone else. He referred to international rugby star **JONAH LOMU** from New Zealand. Like Lomu, Helu is of Tongan ancestry.

Helu's dad also played rugby, as did he for one year. But rugby didn't influence him "too much," he said, "because I ran like this in high school football before I played rugby."

"I like both sports, but there are some pluses in rugby that I like more than football."

Even so, he doesn't envision a professional rugby career.

"There's not too much of a future in America for it, at least not now," he said. "Financially, it would be harder. If I moved out of the states, I would (consider it)."

## SIDELINES



### YOUNG MEMORIAL

Redshirted freshman offensive tackle **MARCEL JONES** had received the Jake Young Memorial Endowed Scholarship, presented annually to a football student-athlete who demonstrates a high level of athletic and academic achievement and effective leadership skills.

Jones, who started the first two games this season, had a 3.568 cumulative grade-point average and was named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll his first two semesters.

Young (1986-89) was a two-time All-America center and Academic All-American from Midland, Texas. He was killed in a terrorist attack in Bali in October of 2002.

### HE'S BACK

**AUSTIN STAFFORD**, a linebacker from Hayward, Calif., and member of Nebraska's 2007 scholarship recruiting class, has returned to practice, according to coach Bo Pelini. Stafford was suspended in the spring, for unspecified reasons, and wasn't included on the 105-roster for pre-season practice.

The 6-2, 205-pound Stafford redshirted last season and played on the scout team.

He played defensive end in high school, and was credited with 14 sacks as a senior.



# 2MinuteDrill



## THE FRIDGE REVISITED

With junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH'S** seeing action on offense in goal-line situations, comparisons to former Chicago Bears' defensive tackle William "Refrigerator" Perry are probably inevitable. The 6-2, 335-pound Perry also was used in goal-line situations, scoring two touchdowns. "I've had that phrase tagged to me when I played in my high school Shrine Bowl," said Suh, who's from Portland, Ore. "I don't know if I was old enough to remember (his playing), but I've looked back and seen what he's done. It's a great quote to be said after my name, but, I mean, it's not me."

## BIG 12 PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Something about Kansas State brings out the best in senior quarterback **JOE GANZ**, who was named Big 12 Offensive Player of

the Week after passing for 270 yards and two touchdowns and rushing for a career-high 95 yards and two touchdowns in a 56-28 victory against the Wildcats.

The Cornhuskers finished with a season-high 610 yards of total offense.

The Big 12 player-of-the-week award was the second for Ganz, who also earned that recognition last season after completing 30-of-40 passes for 510 yards and seven touchdowns, both school records. He also rushed for 18 yards, for a school-record 528 yards in total offense.

Three other Cornhuskers have earned conference player-of-the-week honors this season: **NDAMUKONG SUH**, for his defensive play against Kansas; **NILES PAUL**, for special-teams play against San Jose State; and **NATE SWIFT**, for special-teams play against Virginia Tech.

## SIDELINES



### WUERFFEL TROPHY

For the second consecutive year, Cornhusker wide receiver **TODD PETERSON** has been named a finalist for the Wuerffel Trophy, presented to the college football player who combines exemplary community service with outstanding academic and athletic achievement.

Peterson, a senior from Grand Island, Neb., is among 13 finalists. The trophy is named for former Florida Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Danny Wuerffel, who has been recognized for his humanitarian and community-service efforts with the Desire Street Ministries in New Orleans.

This is the fourth consecutive year Nebraska has had a finalist for the award. Fullback **DANE TODD** was a finalist in 2005 and 2006. The winner will be announced on Dec. 8.

### STANNARD SCHOLARSHIP

Senior quarterback **JOE GANZ** has received the David L. Stannard Scholarship, presented annually to the Nebraska football student-athlete who demonstrates a high level of athletic and academic achievement, effective leadership skills and integrity.

Stannard was a 1951 UNL civil engineering graduate who served in the Korean War in an engineering unit. The scholarship was established by his wife, Nadine.



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## 2008 recruiting class paying their dues

The week after the New Mexico State game, freshman defensive end **CAMERON MEREDITH** talked to reporters. Freshmen are off-limits to reporters until they play. And Meredith had played.

"I enjoyed it a lot. It was probably one of the best times of my life," he said. "Of course, I was nervous. I had butterflies. I knew I could play with these guys. But it's a different level."

"I'm 18-years-old. You're going against 20- and 22-year-olds, so that's a big difference."

Meredith's opportunity – he played for the first time in the second quarter – was a result of uncertainty at defensive end after senior **BARRY TURNER** was lost for the season to injury.

"I thought I was going to redshirt for sure," said Meredith.

As it turns out, he'll probably be redshirted after all because he hasn't played again and he's been slowed by injury, opening the door for medical considerations. The same is true of freshman linebacker **SEAN FISHER**, who saw action in the opening game against Western Michigan but not since.

If Meredith and Fisher get redshirts, which would seem a certainty

given the circumstances, 20 of the Cornhuskers' 22 scholarship freshmen will be redshirted this season.

Defensive backs **ALFONZO DENNARD** and **MASON WALD**, who had played in every game on special teams prior to Colorado, would be the lone exceptions.

"I think you have to do the right thing for them and their future. It's not about the here and now all the time," coach **BO PELINI** said. "It's about doing the right thing by the kid, by the family. If you tell them certain things when you recruit them, you have to stick by your word."

"I think we made the right decision."

The additional year of maturity will serve them well. "Having them play against our older guys, day-in and day-out, makes them battle-tested and develops them," said Pelini. "That's what we want to do with our program. You have to build a foundation, and that class is our foundation for our future."

Former coach **BILL CALLAHAN** took a different approach, getting freshmen on the field as quickly as possible. Last season, for example, he used 10 of 20 scholarship freshmen, as well as walk-on **THOMAS GROVE**. One of the 10, defensive back **ANTHONY BLUE**, is redshirting this season because of injury.

One freshman walk-on has played this season, linebacker **MATT HOLT**. The other freshman walk-ons have redshirted, as have junior college transfers **RICKY HENRY** and **TYSON HETZER**, as well as **DEREK MEYER**, a senior transfer offensive lineman from Kansas State.

"It's a good group of guys, and there's some talent in that group," Pelini said.

### 2008 RECRUITING CLASS

PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	HOMETOWN
Will Compton	LB	6-2	230	Bonne Terre, Mo.
Khiry Cooper	WR	6-2	180	Shreveport, La.
Ben Cotton	TE	6-6	230	Ames, Iowa
Alfonzo Dennard	DB	5-10	190	Rochelle, Ga.
Sean Fisher	LB	6-6	225	Omaha, Ne.
Micah Kreikemeier	LB	6-3	210	West Point, Neb.
John Levorson	DB	6-3	190	Crete, Neb.
Tim Marlowe	WR	5-10	160	Youngstown, Ohio
Cameron Meredith	DE	6-4	225	Santa Ana, Calif.
Collins Okafor	IB	6-1	195	Omaha, Neb.
Courtney Osborne	DB	6-3	175	Garland, Texas
Steven Osborne	WR	6-4	185	Garland, Texas
Kyler Reed	FB	6-3	220	Shawnee, Kan.
Justin Rogers	DB	5-11	180	Birmingham, Ala.
P.J. Smith	DB	6-2	205	River Ridge, La.
Kody Spano	QB	6-2	210	Stephenville, Texas
Baker Steinkuhler	DL	6-6	290	Lincoln, Neb.
Quentin Toailoa	DL	6-4	300	Highland, Calif.
Mason Wald	DB	5-11	205	Birmingham, Ala.
Lester Ward	IB	6-3	215	Brenham, Texas
Alonzo Whaley	LB	6-1	225	Madisonville, Texas
Josh Williams	DE	6-4	225	Denton, Texas

### [Junior College Recruits]

Ricky Henry	OL	6-4	305	Omaha, Neb.
Tyson Hetzer	TE	6-6	250	Redding, Calif.





# 2MinuteDrill

## HOMETOWN HEROES



# N

## Colton Koehler - Harvard, Neb.



Nothing against Nebraska Wesleyan, really, except that it was too small for Colton Koehler. "Just everyone knew each other and I didn't like that because I came from a small town, where everyone knows each other, and I wanted to get out of there," he said.

He was looking for a little anonymity, as well as an opportunity to play football for Nebraska. "It's what you always dream of," said Koehler.

So after the first semester of his freshman year at Wesleyan, during which he played for the Prairie Wolves, primarily on special teams, he transferred to Nebraska. With a recommendation from his high school coach, he participated in a tryout for walk-ons midway through second semester. He and one other aspiring Cornhusker survived the cut.

Koehler played eight-man football in high school. He was a quarterback on offense, and began his career at Nebraska as a fullback. He moved to defense in the fall of a redshirt season spent on the scout team and has remained there.

With the linebacking corps depleted by injuries and the suspension of Cody Glenn, Koehler stepped up in the Kansas State game, playing middle linebacker in the base alignment and leading the team in tackles, with eight. As for the reaction in his home town, "to be completely honest, I hardly ever . . . I don't even talk to my parents much," he said.

"I haven't talked to anyone, really. I've got a couple of text messages, but besides that, I haven't been home since summer. So . . . I don't know."

Once the season's over, however, that'll change, he said. **N**

**COLTON KOEHLER**  
6-1, 230, Junior, Linebacker

**Hometown:** Harvard, Neb.

**County:** Clay

**Population:** 998 (2000 census)

**Distance from Lincoln:** 70 miles

**Harvard Facts:** Milt Tenopir, Nebraska's offensive line coach from 1974 through 2002, is from Harvard, as was Baseball Hall of Famer Billy Southworth, who played for 13 big league seasons and managed for 13 seasons, directing the St. Louis Cardinals to two World Series titles in the 1940s. Harvard's Harold "Chick" Hartley helped lead the Cornhuskers to a 14-6 victory against Notre Dame in the final game played at Nebraska Field on Nov. 30, 1922. Hartley ran for the first touchdown and passed to Dave Noble for the second, as well as kicking the extra points.

**Nebraska football lettermen:**

Roger Fitzke, C (1988-89)

Brad Johnson, C (1980-82)

Harold Hartley, HB (1920-22)



## SIDELINES



### ANOTHER LEVEL

Size, speed and strength are essential to success, of course. But the mental aspect also is critical. "There's always that next level you want to get to," coach **BO PELINI** said.

To illustrate, Pelini referred to something former NFL All-Pro defensive tackle Howie Long told him when the two were discussing whether Glenn Dorsey, whom Pelini coached at LSU, should leave early for the NFL. Long told Pelini he was past his prime physically when he became the best he could be because "he started understanding the mental aspect of the game and some of the little things," Pelini said. "There is a guy that did a lot in the game of football, and he's saying he was probably in his late 20's, early 30's, before he thought he was at his best.

"Imagine a guy that is 17 to 22 years old. They might think they are approaching the best player they can be. There's a lot more out there for them. If they take that approach every single day, the sky is the limit on what they can think they can do. But you have to instill that mentality in them."





## THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# OU-Texas national title? It could happen.

**OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS** both can't make it to the Big 12 championship – but how about a rematch between the Sooners and Longhorns in the BCS title game?

Here's how that could happen.

OU beats Oklahoma State for the sixth straight time in its regular-season finale and Texas tops Texas A&M. Then, either No. 1 Alabama (against Auburn) or No. 4 Florida (against No. 20 Florida State) loses their last contest before they meet in the Southeastern Conference championship.

Say Florida lost, then the Gators would have to knock off the Crimson Tide. If that happened, an Oklahoma or Texas win against Missouri in the Big 12 championship would seal the deal.

If FSU upset the Gators, and Florida rebounded to hammer Alabama in the SEC Championship, then OU and Texas could be No. 1 and No. 2 in the BCS when the dust settles.

Of course, that picture would change dramatically if Oklahoma State knocked off the Sooners in Stillwater, a result that would send Texas Tech to the Big 12 game (assuming the Red Raiders beat Baylor in their regular-season finale). Ironically, that also would leave Texas as a virtual lock to play for the national crown.

Going into the last weekend of the regular season, the Longhorns (who beat OU 45-35 back in October) sat second in the BCS standings behind 'Bama, barely ahead of the Sooners.

Noted BCS analyst Jerry Palm thought it extremely likely, though, that an Oklahoma win against Oklahoma State, which stood 12th in the BCS rankings, would allow

the Sooners to gain enough in all three components of the BCS formula and pass Texas.

"Obviously, now we're in the mix with everybody," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops after enjoying his team's 65-21 pounding of previously unbeaten Tech. "The logic of moving us in front of Texas and not doing that because they beat us... well, then you've got to keep Texas Tech ahead of Texas (because of the Red Raiders' win against the Longhorns). Logical for one is logical for another.

"If you're forgiving a team (Florida) for losing once at home to an unranked (Mississippi) team by saying they're playing well, we're playing pretty well right now, too."

And then there's **MISSOURI**.

No doubt, the Tigers are anxious for the Big 12 game – to be held just 100 miles west of Columbia in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium.

While the South looked like an incomplete Scrabble puzzle, Mizzou quietly wrapped up the North before its 'Border War' game against Kansas by winning four straight after back-to-back losses to Oklahoma State and Texas.

Last year, after a loss at Oklahoma, Missouri needed to win six straight to capture the division. Now, Chase Daniel is staring at the opportunity to have a memorable swan song.

"We reached this plateau last year, and we don't want this to be a plateau for us. We want to keep going," Daniel said as the Tigers headed into their meeting with Kansas (also in Arrowhead). "... Whoever comes out of the Big 12 South circus is going to play us,

so we'll see what happens."

During its loss to the Sooners, Tech had one streak extended and one end.

The **RED RAIDERS** have still never beaten Texas and OU in the same season. And All-American receiver Michael Crabtree, held to a season-low 62 yards in receptions, didn't score a touchdown for the first time in 14 games.

In the Heisman Trophy watch, **OU** quarterback Sam Bradford boosted his stock with his ninth 300-yard passing effort of the season. Bradford's four TD passes also left him with a school-record and 2008 national-best 42.

But **TEXAS'** Colt McCoy is right there with Bradford. McCoy has been particularly robotic in the Red Zone, completing 37 of 45 passes (.822) for 284 yards and 17 touchdowns with just one interception.

Ron Prince got a win in his final game as **KANSAS STATE's** coach, as the player Prince hung his hat on, junior quarterback Josh Freeman, fired four TD passes to let the Wildcats avoid joining Iowa State in the North Division cellar.

Under Prince, though, K-State got progressively worse in the league, going from 4-4 in 2006 to 3-5 last year and 2-6 in 2008. The Wildcats also went 0-9 against Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas.

Their 2008 struggles were summed up in Prince's last meeting with Nebraska, when they scored on defense and special teams for the 17th time since 1990 but lost for the first time in such games.

Prince, given a contract extension before the season, received a buyout of almost \$1.3 million.





# Zach Potter

6-7, 280, Senior, Defensive End, Omaha, Neb.

**HI: Over your four years, what has been the best thing served at the training table?**

POTTER: Either the old Philly steak sandwiches or the cheese tortellini. They're usually both served on Wednesdays, every other week. That's probably the most unhealthy thing there, but you've got to get it.

**HI: What do you remember about your first day of practice at Nebraska?**

POTTER: I don't remember the first day, but I remember that freshman year. Being a freshman, you weren't getting a lot of reps, so I was just standing there with my pads on seeing the speed of the game and how hard guys worked in fall camp.

**HI: What do you have on your iPod?**

POTTER: I've got everything. I've got some rap from back in my freshman and sophomore years, when I was in a rap stage. I've got a lot of rock on there. And my girlfriend's added some country stuff on there now and she's kind of getting me in a country stage. I've got everything. I use it a lot.

**HI: Has the Tunnel Walk ever lost its appeal for you?**

POTTER: Never. Sometimes as a player you get so jacked up you're almost tired. So I've had to calm my emotions a little bit, just kind of jog out instead of running and screaming at the top of your lungs. If I really want to get all jacked up and stuff like that, I try to get to the front, but if it's a time where I think I need to cool myself, I'll just kind of get in the middle of the pack.

**HI: What's the toughest class you've taken at Nebraska?**

POTTER: Probably business calculus, I didn't like it and so I dropped it. But I think if I would have stuck with it and got a tutor like I should have, I probably would have done OK. I didn't give it a chance. I stayed in it the first week. It would have been in my sophomore year.

**HI: If your life were made into a movie, whom would you pick to play your character?**

POTTER: I like Brad Pitt and I like Josh Hartnett. A lot of people used to say Josh Hartnett looked like me, so I'd probably say Josh Hartnett.

**HI: Has the team usually seen good movies on the nights before games?**

POTTER: It's kind of hit and miss because it depends on what movies are coming out. Last year, we had a good movie year. This year's been OK. That's kind of the best thing about being part of this; you get to see a movie every Friday night. If you're on the road, you can get one on those in your hotel room. So I've definitely seen my share of movies for free the last four years. I'll miss that because I'll have to start paying.

**HI: Have you established a pre-game routine?**

POTTER: I get here and put my name on the taping list, get taped, get dressed, just some shorts and T-shirt and I always go outside and play catch, just kind of hang out, relax on the field. If I'm inside the stadium, I feel the time goes really quick. I like playing catch before games. I usually play with Tyler Wortman, if he gets out there in time. If not, I just find somebody. If no one's out there, I'll throw the ball to myself. I don't have to sit in the locker room and keep looking at the clock.

**HI: Who's the funniest guy you've been around on the team?**

POTTER: Jake Wesch, he's a great story-teller. I always crack up.

**HI: Which is better blocking kicks or sacking quarterbacks?**

POTTER: Sacking the quarterback. If you would have asked me a couple of years ago, when I hadn't sacked a quarterback, it definitely would have been blocking kicks because that really does affect the score. But these last two years, I've had the opportunity to sack the quarterback a couple of times, and that's the best feeling, just taking the quarterback down behind the line of scrimmage and throwing the bones. It's kind of like the Tunnel Walk, you get all tingly inside because it's such a special thing and you know it's going to help your team out.





# Josh White

## Nebraska alum puts law degree to use

Back in the late 1990s, Josh White was working on his law degree and knew he wanted to work in sports in some capacity.

So he went to work for an NFL sports agent.

"He was a great guy and I really enjoyed working for him," White said. "But I just didn't like that side of the business so much. I'm sure it's a fine business; it just wasn't for me."

Turns out, White found his niche in NCAA rules compliance. As Nebraska assistant athletic director for compliance and planning, the 35-year-old White is responsible for coordinating all facets of the rules-compliance education program for coaches, student-athletes, staff and boosters. He also oversees NCAA rules monitoring for recruiting activities, camps, student-athlete employment

and playing and practice season limitations. In addition, he assists with the investigation and documentation of NCAA, Big 12 Conference and institutional rules infractions.

White received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Nebraska in 1995 and went on to earn his juris doctorate from the Nebraska College of Law in 1999. After his short stint in the sports-agent business, White went to work as NCAA compliance director for Nebraska-Omaha. He also served as the athletic department's academic coordinator.

"I was happy to get a chance to work in college athletics," White said. "I figured my way into college athletics would be through compliance, especially coming out of law school."

As an example of his current duties, White



enforces recruiting rules, such as which specific periods on the calendar coaches and administrators are allowed to have direct contact with athletes.

"If an athlete is a senior in high school and decides to walk in to the Hewitt Center and talk to an academic counselor during a recruiting 'dead period,' that's a violation," White said.

Before joining the Nebraska athletic department, White was an associate director for membership services at the NCAA from 2002 to 2006.

A native of Reno, Nev., White has grandparents who attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and have lived in Lincoln since the 1930s.

## Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Tim Carpenter

"You realize how special that time was."

The subject still comes up among former Nebraska teammates, attended by some good-natured ribbing. Tim Carpenter caught two passes during his career, one as a redshirted freshman and the other as a sophomore. Both were in games against Pacific. And Pacific dropped its football program the next year.

"They said, 'The heck with it; Carpenter's catching passes,'" said Carpenter, whose ability as a perimeter blocker was exceptional.



He had a receiver's hands. He could catch. And he had played running back in high school. He was recruited as a fullback, in fact. But

blocking was his strength. "Everybody on the team knew what they were best at. I think that's what I did well, and that's how they leveraged me," he said. "I didn't care. I guess I wasn't that person who complained about not getting balls thrown to me."

"I knew my role, and part of your role is getting really good at it, being better than anybody else. So that's what I focused on."

Such an attitude was a characteristic of the teams on which Carpenter played, as well as one of the reasons for their remarkable success — three national championships in coach Tom Osborne's final four seasons.

After the Cornhuskers won the third, with a 42-17 victory against Peyton Manning and Tennessee in the 1998 Orange Bowl game, the day after they returned to Lincoln, Osborne met with Carpenter and the other seniors.

### TIM CARPENTER

**LETTERS:** 1994-97

**POSITION:** Tight end

**CURRENT:** Plant manager, Pella Windows, Sioux Center, Iowa

**WIFE:** Amy

**CHILDREN:** Katie (5), Jackson (2)

Osborne "doesn't get emotional very often," Carpenter said. But he was emotional during the meeting. "He said, 'You have no idea what you've just done. It's going to be 10 or 15 years down the road until you fully realize what kind of impact on college football you've just had.' At that point, I would fully agree. I didn't have any idea what he was talking about when he was standing there."

Now, Carpenter understands. "You realize how special that time was," he said.

**ON TOM OSBORNE'S ANGER:** "I think I heard him yell 'beans' probably 400 times a year. When he started yelling 'beans' at you, that was his form of saying, 'I'm extremely upset,' that or 'dadgummit.'"



## Fishing for Florida speed

BY RICK SHAW

**F**or college coaches looking to add speed and athleticism to their rosters, the state of Florida is usually a good place to start. Every year, the "Sunshine State" churns out enough blue-chip recruits to fuel and replenish a host of Division I football teams.

An impressive 15 Floridians are listed in Rivals.com's list of National Top 100 recruits, the most of any state. With one pledge already in hand, Nebraska is hoping to add a couple more standouts from Florida to its 2009 recruiting class over the next few weeks.

In August, the Huskers received a pledge from cornerback **DEANDRE BYRD** (5-10, 170-pounds) of Tallahassee (Fla.) Lincoln. The speedy defender chose Nebraska over offers from Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Iowa State, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, South Carolina, South Florida and Wisconsin.

According to Lincoln High head coach Kyle Rice, the Huskers got a good one.

"DeAndre has great work ethic," Rice said. "He also has great instincts to the football with his closing speed. DeAndre also has great explosion off the ball, very solid technique in coverage and turns his hips extremely well in finding the ball in coverage."

Rated the nation's No. 48 cornerback by Rivals (three-stars), Byrd has turned in a solid senior year on the gridiron. Through 11 games he's compiled 21 tackles, one tackle for loss, three interceptions and six pass breakups. He plans to take his official visit to



Lincoln on Jan. 9.

**JARVIS GILES**, a 5-11, 175-pound running back from Tampa (Fla.) Gaither plans to travel to Nebraska on Nov. 28, for the Huskers annual battle with Colorado. The four-star athlete said the Huskers have emerged as a serious player in the race for his commitment.

"Nebraska has put the most running backs in the league (NFL) with 21," Giles said. "That's more than anyone and they are looking pretty good to me. Plus there are so many great backs from the Big 12 like Adrian Peterson. It's a great conference."

Though he holds double-digit scholarship offers, Giles said he's narrowed his list of college possibilities down to just four, Nebraska, South Carolina, Ole Miss and Tennessee.

"It's pretty much down to those four schools," Giles said. "Right now I look at

it that I am a free agent. I am taking in what the coaches say and I am trying to figure things out. I want to make a decision in early January."

Rated the nation's No. 2 all-purpose back and the No. 5 "Best home-run threat" by Rivals, Giles has rushed for almost 1,000 yards and 14 scores in nine games this season. As a junior, he ran for 1,478 yards and 20 touchdowns, averaging 6.2 yards per carry.

Another highly-sought player from Tampa, **ORSON CHARLES** (6-3, 230-pounds) of Plant High, is also giving strong consideration to visiting Lincoln.

Rated the nation's No. 3 tight end prospect by Rivals (four-stars) and the nation's No. 79 overall recruit, he has plenty of options to choose from. He holds tenders from Auburn, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Illinois, Miami, Michigan, Nebraska and Tennessee, among others.

Charles said he's intrigued with what the Husker coaches have told him.

"Oh yeah, coach (**TIM BECK**) came to my school (recently), Charles said. "It went good. He really couldn't say anything to me, but he told my coaches that they want to use me at wideout. My coaches said that he said some positive things."

"I don't have any favorites. I want a school that has a good program in construction engineering because that's what I want to major in, and one where I could see the field



and play early if I learn the playbook – a place that will use my talents.”

The Tampa standout, with 4.55-second speed in the 40-yard dash, hauled in 48 catches for 1,019 yards and 16 touchdowns this season. As a junior, he compiled 12 grabs for 400 yards and three scores.

**JAIRUS JONES** of Tampa (Fla.) Wharton is also giving serious consideration to Nebraska. The 6-2, 210-pound safety said the Huskers are currently showing him more attention than any of his other suitors.

“They were my third offer, but they’ve come at me the hardest out of all of them,” Jones said. “They send me mail all the time. Coach Beck, I talk to him more than all the others basically. I talk to him every week. We talk basically about the season and about Nebraska, how the defense is looking, and how my coaches and parents are doing.”

Rated the nation’s No. 64 athlete by Rivals (three-stars), Jones earned first-team all-conference and first-team all-county honors as a junior from his strong safety slot. He finished the season with 89 tackles, one interception, and 14 pass breakups.

Jones also holds offers from Ball State, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, LSU, Michigan State, North Carolina State and Florida Atlantic. He said he wants to take a few visits before singling out a favorite.

“I want to take my visits before I put someone No. 1 or No. 2,” Jones said.

Nebraska also is still in the running for running back **AL-TEREK MCBURSE** (6-0, 192 pounds) of Winter Springs (Fla.). The

fleet-footed rusher said, at this stage of the recruiting process, he’d probably consider the Huskers his leader.

“If I had to pick today I would say Nebraska,” McBurse said. “I just loved that visit more than anything. I just really liked the campus and there was nothing about them I didn’t like. I was totally comfortable.”

McBurse is also considering scholarship offers from Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Minnesota, Purdue, South Florida, Wake Forest and others. This past season, he rushed for 2,238 yards and 23 touchdowns, averaging 12 yards per carry.

Nebraska has worked hard, this season, to



JARVIS GILES

establish their presence in the “Sunshine State.” With one commitment already in the books and a number of other prospects showing interest, the Huskers hope that their diligence on the Florida recruiting trail will pay dividends in February and in years to come. **N**

## COMMITTED



### OVERCOMING INJURY

When you’re a competitor like Husker tight end commit **J.T. KERR**, being injured isn’t easy.

Besides the physical rehabilitation, the 6-4, 230-pounder from Scripps Ranch High School in San Diego says that after suffering a shoulder injury, the hardest part was simply just not being on the field with his team. Though it looked like four weeks was going to be the time span in front of him before he could return, he started trying to get back after three.

In the last few games, where another touchdown and several catches have been added to the stat sheet, the hard work has been well worth it – especially in preparation for a run at the state championship.

“I tried to come back at three (weeks) and the doctors, and trainers, told me I was out four weeks,” Kerr said. “I was just trying get my head right that (last) week with my coaches not letting me play before that fourth game.”

Knowing at least recruiting is behind him helps him stay focused. It also adds more pressure.

“It eases it up a lot,” Kerr said about being done with recruiting. “At the same time, I want to play well and represent the Huskers.”

His excitement to join the program, especially with the bond he’s formed with tight ends coach Ron Brown, is certainly still high.

“I talk to coach Brown every week,” Kerr said. “We just talk about how excited we are for me to get there. I’m excited to play for coach Brown and see what kind of player he can make me.”

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher  
HuskiersIllustrated.com



# Recruiting Notebook

## Looking for wideouts

by Sean Stevens

After the 2008 season, Nebraska will lose wide receivers **NATE SWIFT** and **TODD PETERSON** to graduation. With those losses, it is likely that NU will try to sign two prospects to replace them. Probably the top candidate is **BRANDON KINNIE** (6-3/215/3-stars) of Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College.

Kinnie visited Lincoln both unofficially this past summer and officially Sept. 5. After that official visit, Kinnie sounded like a guy ready to make a choice.

"Like I told the coaches, I'm really wanting to be here – this is the only school that I'm high on with interest. I just want to make the right choice and don't want to jump in to it too fast."

That was September and Kinnie is yet to commit, however he is still leaning towards the Big Red.

"Arkansas wants me down there for their game against LSU at the end of this month (Nov. 29)," Kinnie said. "I want to take my mom to an unofficial visit to Nebraska for their Colorado game (Nov. 28). I'm leaning towards Nebraska right now. I might take a couple of more visits



after that or I might be ready to make a decision soon after (that trip)."

The chance to compete early with Swift and Peterson's departure hasn't been lost on Kinnie.

"I favor Nebraska. I feel I can come in there and make a big impact for them. They said they are looking for a big, physical JUCO to come in and play immediately. I know they lose their top two receivers."

Kinnie will have three years of eligibility remaining at the Division I level.

## SIDELINES



### EXTRA OPTIONS

Another receiver with an NU offer is **CHRIS OMIGIE** (6-5/185/3-stars) of Arlington, Texas. Other contenders for his commitment are Kansas, Purdue, Iowa and Baylor. Omigie was scheduled to officially visit the Huskers during the Colorado game.

NU running backs coach **TIM BECK** is Omigie's lead recruiter for the Huskers.

"He's really cool, straight forward and he's not telling me lies. He was straight forward about how they need a receiver but not about how I'm going to start."

As a junior, Omigie caught just 14 passes for 199 yards. In 2008 those numbers jumped to 55 catches for 937 yards and nine touchdowns as his team moved to a more balanced offensive scheme.

### LOUISIANA PROSPECT

Rayville, La., wideout **ABRECUS MARTINEZ** (6-2/185/3-stars) is another option. NU is competing with Tulsa, Colorado and Ole Miss for his pledge.

Martinez will wait for Rayville's playoff run to end before taking official visits.

"I know I'll be visiting Nebraska and Tulsa. Nebraska is my leader. I like them a bit more than Tulsa right now because they're a bigger school and they play on TV more. I also like what coach 'J.P.' (John Papuchis) has been telling me about the academic support in Lincoln."

## 2009 Nebraska Commitment List (17)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
J.T. Kerr	TE	6-4	230	Corona, Calif. (Scripps Ranch)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Earnest Norman	LB	5-11	220	Eules, Texas (Trinity)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Eules, Texas (Trinity)
Jeremia Sirles	OL	6-6	280	Lakewood, Colo. (Bear Creek)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
Dijon Washington	DB	6-0	173	Lawndale, Calif. (Leuzinger)
Chris Williams	LB	6-0	230	Abilene, Texas (Abilene)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)



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# Striving for greatness

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

**O**n a biting cold November day in Lincoln, Neb., Menelik Holt's thoughts drift back to August.

Holt, a Nebraska junior wide receiver, feels he made a big jump in improvement during the heat and inherent strain of preseason camp this past August. He felt much more confident than he did during his first two years on campus.

"I don't know if it came with age or what," he said. "Things just started coming easier and easier."

"Easy" seldom is a word associated with any football team's preseason camp. Players sometimes practice twice a day. In Lincoln, August heat and humidity can be debilitating when standing still, let alone running around wearing football gear. Coaches are pushing players hard, what with the season-opener looming.

In Holt's first two preseason camps, in 2006 and 2007, "Every day was stressful," he recalled. "I always was thinking about

a lot of things. A lot of stuff was going through my mind. Preseason camp can wear you down mentally."

Something changed this past August.

"I didn't get tired of practice," Holt said. "I wasn't tired of the heat. I wasn't tired of the meetings. Nothing seemed overwhelming. For some reason, I don't know if it was God or what, but it all came together for me."

Holt's positive vibe carried into the season and resulted in significant productivity. The San Diego native, through 11 games, ranked fourth on the team with 25 receptions for 278 yards (11.1 per catch) and a touchdown. His numbers almost certainly would be even better if not for a sprained MCL in his right knee that sidelined him for most of three games – Nov. 1 at Oklahoma, Nov. 8 against Kansas and Nov. 15 at Kansas State. He said the injury has been "really frustrating."

"But you can't go back and change it," he added. "You just have to move on and do what you can."



His frustration stems from his belief that, after making four catches in 2006 and 2007 combined, this season would be his breakthrough. "It's his time," Nebraska wide receivers coach Ted Gilmore said in August. "Time to show what he can do."

Holt has shown what he can do this season; he would just like to show more. But he stays upbeat. He gained a wealth of perspective about life when his mother, Mary Holt, died of breast cancer in October of 2006. Her positive energy and outlook were unmistakable, teammates say, and Holt still uses her as a source of strength. He keeps pushing forward, determined to become one of the Big 12 Conference's best wideouts -- if not THE best.

During August camp, Nebraska coaches praised Holt's improvement. He worked to improve his blocking; Gilmore demands tenacious blocking on the perimeter from all his receivers. The Huskers lost to graduation key wideouts in Maurice Purify, Terrence Nunn, Frantz Hardy and Dan Erickson. Consequently, Big Red needed players such as Holt, Niles Paul, Curenski Gilleylen and Chris Brooks to take their overall play to another level.

A lot of Holt's improvement might be explained by maturity -- he turned 20 in August, so he's relatively young for a junior. He didn't receive the benefit of a redshirt season, appearing in eight games as a true freshman in 2006, mostly on special teams. As a sophomore, he saw action in all 12 games both as a reserve "X" receiver and on special teams. In the final four games last season, he caught four passes for 97 yards, including two for 49 in the season finale at Colorado.

Holt began this season with five catches for 59 yards in Nebraska's season-opening 47-24 home win against Western Michigan. He had a season-high six catches (for 55 yards) in the Huskers' 37-31 overtime loss Oct. 11 at Texas Tech and five more receptions (for 45 yards)

Oct. 18 in a 35-7 triumph at Iowa State before injuring his knee the next week in a 32-20 win against Baylor.

"This is an injury that can keep happening over and over to receivers," Holt said after a recent practice as Nebraska prepared for its Nov. 28 game against Colorado. "We cut a lot at the receiver position. I'm just getting to the point now where I'm real confident in it. I'm not really thinking about it that much."

The 6-4, 220-pound Holt possesses a hunger to achieve at a high level.

As for his long-range vision, "Hopefully I'll finish out this year strong and next year do some good things and help lead our team to big wins," he said. "If the NFL calls, I'll try that. But as of right now, I still feel like I need to become the best receiver I can be. I don't feel I'm close to that yet.

"I feel like I'm a very average player right now."

That's a rather harsh self-evaluation. But it's true he hasn't made many explosive plays. So, he keeps working and stays humble.

"I want to be a great player and make big plays like Nate Swift," said Holt, referring to Nebraska's senior standout. "That's the bar I hold myself to. I look around the Big 12 and see what's going on with other receivers like Juaquin Iglesias (of Oklahoma) and Dez Bryant (of Oklahoma State). That's what I can be. But you have to do it.

"I'm still working on understanding defenses. I can draw up coverages. But I need to understand the disguises and what means what. Of course, this is still my first year playing a lot. Getting comfortable helps a whole lot."

Even this season, Holt said, "I'm still going in and out of games. Sometimes I'm sitting for three or four plays at a time. Texas Tech was the first time I was really in for an entire game."

He said he learns a lot by watching Swift, who had a team-leading 58 receptions for 899 yards and eight touchdowns through 11

games.

"Ever since he's been here, everybody knows Nate's a guy who just knows how to get open," Holt said. "I don't know how he does it sometimes, but Nate always finds a way to get open. It's probably a secret. The bottom line is, he plays very fast and he's a very tough kid. Put those things together, it helps a lot."

Holt feels he has learned to play fast.

"But I need to play much faster in order to be the top receiver in the Big 12. That's what I'm aiming for," he said. "I'm going to be a senior next year and there are going to be a lot of guys leaning on me. I feel like I wouldn't be doing this program justice or my friends justice if I didn't work hard to try to get to that level."

Holt respects Gilmore's guidance. During Holt's first two seasons, "Coach Gilmore would tell me that I'll eventually have my turn, that I was working hard but not quite ready," Holt said. "Coach Gilmore's not the type of coach to put you out there on the playing field when you're not ready. He's not going to let you embarrass yourself. I understand why he did it now because now I'm ready."

Holt carries a 3.0 grade-point average as an economics major. He rebounded well academically after a rugged freshman year, he said. His mother's death hit him hard.

"When that happened, I didn't want to do anything anymore," he said. "She died at 43. That's pretty young to me."

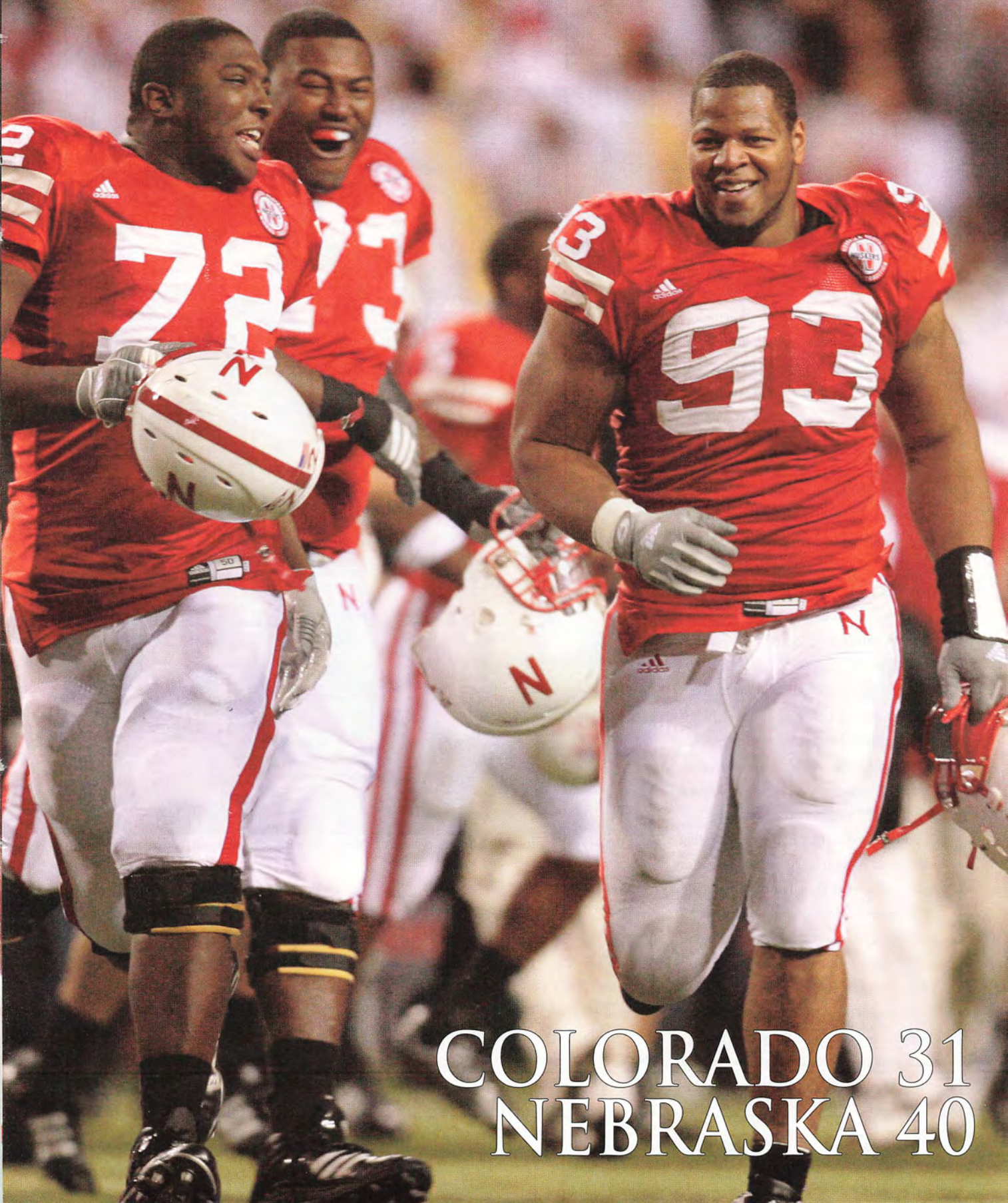
It changed his perspective on life.

"Life's really short," he said. "I had to re-evaluate myself and figure out what really mattered to me anymore. When everything can be taken away that fast, you start really measuring what's important and what's not.

"Obviously I still wanted to be here at Nebraska. I knew she wanted me to be here. She felt safe with me here. So I just kept pushing forward. The things she taught me are the reason I'm still here." **N**



**JAIVORIO BURKES (72), D.J. JONES (73) AND NDAMUKONG SUH (93) CELEBRATE AFTER A 40-31 WIN OVER COLORADO.**



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# Ain't that a kick

**E**ven in its scaled-back form, there are still a healthy number of selections in Nebraska's offensive playbook. However, when it comes to fourth-and-25 situations, the options are understandably limited.

But that was exactly the position the Cornhuskers found themselves in with 1:50 to play in their regular-season finale against Colorado. Following a 15-yard sack and an incomplete pass on third down, Nebraska trailed 31-30 and coach **BO PELINI** called timeout to consider options with the ball resting at the Buffaloes' 40-yard line.

Ultimately, Pelini said he wanted to get a good read on Nebraska place-kicker **ALEX HENERY** and his confidence in converting a 57-yard field goal. A walk-on sophomore from Omaha Burke, Henery's previous career long for the Huskers had been 48 yards.

"I just wanted him to look me in the face and tell me he felt he had it in him," Pelini said of Henery. "Normally his range is around 52. He looked at me and said, 'I made it in warmups. I've been hitting it good.' And I said, 'All right let's go.'"

So with Nebraska's hopes of recording a senior day victory in doubt, the smallest Husker delivered arguably the biggest play of the season. Henery's school-record 57-yard field goal was true, giving his team a 33-31 lead with 1:43 remaining as NU went on to win 40-31.

"Going up there, all I remember is hitting the ball," Henery said. "I don't remember much after that. **T.J. (O'LEARY)** had a great snap and **JAKE (WESCH)** had a great hold.



Alex Henery celebrates with T.J. O'Leary and Jake Wesch after his school-record field goal.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

They get a lot of the credit, too."

Henery said he didn't actually see the ball go through the uprights and clear the crossbar.

"I was pretty sure I made it," Henery said. "I hit the ball really well."

As difficult as the kick may have been, several teammates said they had confidence in Henery.

"It was an unbelievable kick by Alex," Nebraska quarterback **JOE GANZ** said. "It was just awesome."

Nebraska offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** joked that he's just happy to know that the Huskers have at least one viable option on fourth and 25. The play call? "Let Alex kick," he said. **N**

— by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



Husker seniors exited the Tunnel Walk walking hand in hand on Senior Day.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



Sophomore I-back Roy Helu Jr. rushed for a career-high 166 yards.

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING:

A

While a turf-toe injury kept I-back **MARLON LUCKY** sidelined in his final home game, sophomore **ROY HELU JR.** more than picked up the slack, rushing for a career-high 166 yards on 25 carries in his first collegiate start. The fourth-quarter red-zone fumble hurt.

### PASSING:

C

Four sacks, including the 15-yarder that ultimately helped force Nebraska into the late 57-yard field-goal attempt, hampered an otherwise decent effort. Quarterback **JOE GANZ** was unspectacular, but solid with 229 passing yards and two TDs with no interceptions.

### RUSHING DEFENSE:

A

Nebraska limited Colorado to 42 yards on 22 attempted, helped by five sacks that produced 34 yards in rushing losses. Other than a 36-yard TD run by Demetrius Sumler that put the Buffaloes ahead 14-0, there were no major breakdowns.

### PASSING DEFENSE:

C

For the third consecutive contest, the Huskers applied good pressure with its front four, which accounted for four of the five sacks. Nebraska finished with a season-high three interceptions, but got hit with big plays as 112 of CU's 249 yards came on two plays.

### KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

C+

**ALEX HENERY**'s school-record 57-yard field goal helped to offset some key breakdowns, including allowing a 57-yard kickoff return to the Buffaloes' Josh Smith. Giving up a TD when Colorado's Jimmy Smith sniffed out a field-goal fake was a major gaffe.



NDAMUKONG SUH



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

## MR. TOUCHDOWN

When **ALEX HENERY**'s 57-yard field goal went through the north up-rights, coach **BO PELINI**'s first thought was that the Cornhuskers still had to stop Colorado, which had 1:43 to try to score and win the game. Enter defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who grabbed a Cody Hawkins' pass deflected by defensive end **ZACH POTTER** and returned the ball 30 yards for a game-sealing touchdown.

Should he have fallen down and not run the risk of losing a fumble, as former Cornhusker defensive tackle **LEKEVIN SMITH** did near the end of a 34-31 loss against Texas Tech in 2005? "He thinks he's Walter Payton," said Pelini. "So I said, 'Go do your thing.'"

Suh is no stranger to the end zone this season. He intercepted a pass and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown against San Jose State and caught a 2-yard touchdown pass against Kansas.

"That was all thanks to the guys up front," Suh said.

Potter also had a hand, literally, in Suh's first interception return.

### FAULTY FAKE

**BO PELINI** admitted he was "greedy." With time running out in the first half, Nebraska faced fourth-and-7 at the Colorado 33-yard line, leading 24-17. And he "wanted to jump on" the Buffaloes.

So he sent the field goal unit onto the field, as if to attempt a 50-yarder. The plan, however, was for holder **JAKE WESCH** to take the snap and flip the ball over his head backward to place-kicker **ALEX HENERY**, who was running to his right. A similar play, with Henery carrying, had gained 9 yards and a first down against Kansas, three weeks earlier.

This time, however, Henery was supposed to pull up and pass the ball. And two receivers were open, according to Pelini. The problem was, Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith didn't respond as expected. When the ball went over Wesch's head, Smith intervened, grabbed it and ran 58 yards for a touchdown. The result was a halftime tie at 24. "I felt like we were

in control, and then I made the bone-headed call," said Pelini. "I would have been kicking myself for a long time because I feel if we would not have won the football game, I would have taken responsibility.

"I'm a grown man. I made a mistake. I made a bad call."

He had considered calling time out before the trick play. "I screwed it up," Pelini said.

### FAST START

Colorado finished with 291 yards of offense, 148 of them coming on the Buffaloes' first two possessions – just four plays from scrimmage. "They made the plays, but we just had some busts," coach **BO PELINI** said. "So we gave them a big jump-out on us."

The Cornhuskers weren't concerned, however, according to junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**. "I know this team well enough that it won't put a damper on us," he said.

By quarter's end, Nebraska had tied the score at 14.





**TACKLES LEADER:** Junior safety **RICKEY THENARSE** was credited with a team-high eight tackles, including one of the Cornhuskers' five quarterback sacks. Nebraska now has 30 sacks for the season, compared to only 13 a year ago. Senior **SHUKREE BARFIELD**, a back-up defensive tackle, had two sacks (for 13 yards in losses) on consecutive downs during Colorado's final possession with time running out.

## NO LUCKY, OR DILLARD

Senior I-back **MARLON LUCKY** didn't play because of a toe injury that prevented him from practicing during the week. And "the bottom line is, when you don't practice enough around here, it's hard to play," coach **BO PELINI** said. "He was there on an emergency basis, but he wasn't 100 percent."

So sophomores **ROY HELU, JR.** and **QUENTIN CASTILLE** handled the ball-carrying.

Helu made his first career start and rushed for a career-high 166 yards on 25 carries, also a career-high. He has rushed for 100 or more yards in three of the last four games.

In addition, he caught a team-high five passes for 49 yards.

Junior middle linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** also didn't play because of an ankle injury.

## MISLEADING STATISTICS

Nebraska again dominated time of possession, 39:36 to 20:24, running 77 plays to Colorado's 48. Based on those numbers only, you might have thought the Cornhuskers ran away with the victory. "We made enough plays in the end, but we definitely made it hard on ourselves," coach **BO PELINI** said.

Nebraska lost 2-of-4 fumbles, didn't always execute in the red zone, dropped some passes, and made some mistakes defensively, said Pelini. "That was a wild football game."

## STUDENT SUPPORT

The student section in the upper-east corner of the South Stadium had large pockets of empty seats the previous two home games. But that wasn't the case this time, despite the university's Thanksgiving break. In the past month, both coach **BO PELINI** and Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE** sent e-mails to students, asking for their support. "We really stressed it," Pelini said. "We needed them today. That crowd was great. They were really behind us the whole way, and at times, we made it hard for them to be on our side. I'm just glad they stuck with us. They really gave us a jolt of energy."

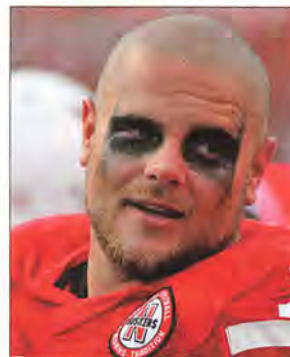
## RECORD-SETTING KICK

Alex Henery's 57-yard field goal was a school record. The record had been 55 yards.

### The previous longest:

Chris Drennan, Northern Illinois, 1989 . . . . .	55
Billy Todd, Kansas, 1977 . . . . .	55
Paul Rogers, Kansas, 1969 . . . . .	55
Rich Sanger, Texas A&M, 1972 . . . . .	54
Kevin Seibel, at Colorado, 1980 . . . . .	52
Kris Brown, Texas, 1996 . . . . .	51
Paul Rogers, Wyoming, 1968 . . . . .	51
Kris Brown, at Kansas State, 1996 . . . . .	50
Chris Drennan, at Colorado, 1987 . . . . .	50
Dale Klein, at Kansas State, 1985 . . . . .	50
Kevin Seibel, Kansas State, 1980 . . . . .	50

## QUICKLY



### VERBAL BAILOUT

Cornhusker senior offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON** is a self-described "somewhat native of Colorado." His family moved from Oregon, and he went to Air Academy High School and then Air Force Prep, one year each. Colorado recruited him but during the process "disrespected" both him and Nebraska, prompting him to make some unkind remarks about the Buffaloes.

He hadn't liked Colorado, anyway, he told reporters earlier in the week. The Buffaloes "just seemed irrelevant to me," he said, adding: "Boy, that's billboard material."

There was some talking on the field as a result, said Slauson, particularly after quarterback Joe Ganz was sacked for a 15-yard loss, leaving Alex Henery to attempt a 57-yard field goal.

As for the remarks, "I had some regret at first," Slauson said. "There was a lot of regret there, like, 'Wait a minute, I just said something really bad.' But then I was like, 'OK, I said what I said. Now they're going to be extra fired up . . . that just means we have to work harder now.'"

"I was really proud of our guys for helping me not eat my words."



## SUMMARY

### SCORING

Nov. 28, 2008  
Memorial - Lincoln, Neb.  
Attendance: 85,319

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Colorado	14	10	7	0	31
Nebraska	14	10	3	13	40

#### First Quarter

	CU	NU
CU Geer Pass from Hawkins 68-yards (Goodman Kick) 14:06 Drive: 2 plays 68 yds 0:54	7	0
CU Sumler 36-yard Run (Goodman Kick) 10:33 Drive: 2 plays 80 yds 0:43	14	0
NU Swift Pass from Ganz 2-yards (Henery Kick) 05:46 Drive: 9 plays 64 yds 4:38	14	7
NU McNeill Pass from Ganz 53-yards (Henery Kick) 04:04 Drive: 1 plays 55 yds 0:09	14	14

#### Second Quarter

NU Henery 35-yard Field Goal 12:08 Drive: 10 plays 15 yds 4:48	14	17
CU Goodman 37-yard Field Goal 09:08 Drive: 6 plays 16 yds 2:50	17	17
NU Castille 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 02:03 Drive: 12 plays 64 yds 7:06	17	24
CU Smith Fumble Recovery (Goodman Kick) 01:11	24	24

#### Third Quarter

NU Henery 27-yard Field Goal 09:49 Drive: 9 plays 70 yds 5:06	24	27
CU Sumler 4-yard Run (Goodman Kick) 05:39 Drive: 9 plays 65 yds 4:04	31	27

#### Fourth Quarter

NU Henery 37-yard Field Goal 08:09 Drive: 4 plays 7 yds 1:57	31	30
NU Henery 57-yard Field Goal 01:43 Drive: 7 plays 34 yds 2:52	31	33
NU Suh Interception return (Henery Kick) 00:55	31	40

## TEAM STATS

	CU	NU
Total First Downs	13	23
Rushing	4	11
Passing	9	12
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	22	51
Yards Gained Rushing	84	232
Yards Lost Rushing	42	54
Net Yards Rushing	42	178
Net Yards Passing	249	229
Passes Attempted	26	26
Passes Completed	14	19
Had Intercepted	3	0
Percent Completion	53.8%	73.1%
Yards per Attempt	9.6	8.8
Yards per Completion	17.8	12.1
Total Offensive Plays	48	77
Total Net Yards	291	407
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.1	5.3
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-1	4-2
Penalties: No-Yards	2-14	3-15
Punts: No-Yards	3-107	1-44
Avg. Per Punt	35.7	44.0
Avg. Net Punt	30.0	44.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	2-17
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	8-198	6-143
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	3-38
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	1-58	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	20:24	39:36
Third-Down Conversions	4-10	6-14
Percentage	40.0%	42.9%
Fourth-Down Conversions	2-2	0-2
Percentage	100.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	4-36	5-34

## OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Helu Jr.	25	166	0	166	6.6	0	25
Castille	12	20	8	12	1.0	1	8
Ganz	13	46	37	9	0.7	0	13
Wesch	1	0	9	-9	-9.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	26	19	73.1	0	229	2	53

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
McNeill	3	70	1	53
Helu Jr.	5	49	0	19
Peterson	4	44	0	17
Holt	3	42	0	20
Paul	1	11	0	11
Swift	2	10	1	8
Castille	1	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	1	44.0	44	0	1	0	0	0

### COLORADO

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Sumler	9	69	4	65	7.2	2	36
Hansen	3	13	2	11	3.7	0	8
Scott	2	0	1	-1	-0.5	0	0
Hawkins	8	2	35	-33	-4.1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Hawkins	24	14	58.3	3	249	1	68
Hansen	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
McKnight	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Geer	2	86	1	68
McKnight	4	58	0	23
Smith	2	52	0	44
Deehan	1	22	0	22
Crawford	2	20	0	11
Melton	1	7	0	7
Williams	1	3	0	3
Devanny	1	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Pierson	1	44.0	44	0	0	0	0	0
Fulhage	5	38.6	47	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>





## NEBRASKA SEASON STATS

	NU	OPP
<b>Total First Downs</b> .....	281	214
Rushing.....	110	81
Passing.....	110	110
Penalty.....	11	23
<b>Total Net Yards</b> .....	5499	4338
Total Plays.....	848	740
Yards Per Play.....	6.5	5.9
Yards Per Game.....	458.2	361.5
<b>Rushing Attempts-Yards</b> .....	451-2082	392-1510
Yards Per Attempt.....	4.6	3.9
Yards Per Game.....	173.5	125.8
<b>Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.</b> .....	397-276-10	348-205-10
<b>Passing Yards</b> .....	3417	2828
Yards Per Completion.....	12.4	13.8
Yards Per Game.....	284.8	235.7
<b>Punting: No.-Avg.</b> .....	41-38.5	57-38.8
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b> .....	28-15	16-5
<b>Penalties-Yards</b> .....	86-719	57-427
<b>Sacks By-Yds. Lost</b> .....	30-225	21-128
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b> .....	77-159	54-153
Conversion Pct.....	48.4	35.3
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b> .....	5-13	9-18
Conversion Pct.....	38.5	50.0
<b>Avg. Time Of Possession</b> .....	34:00	26:00

Rushing	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Helu Jr., Roy	12	120	834	30	804	6.7	7	57	67.0
Lucky, Marlon	11	125	550	33	517	4.1	7	58	47.0
Castille, Q.	12	88	365	23	342	3.9	6	37	28.5
Ganz, Joe	12	85	402	145	257	3.0	5	33	21.4
Mendoza, Marcus	4	2	110	7	103	6.9	1	35	25.8
Swift, Nate	12	2	23	0	23	11.5	0	16	1.9
Peterson, Todd	12	2	18	0	18	9.0	0	16	1.5
Lee, Zac	2	2	17	0	17	8.5	0	11	8.5
Witt, Patrick	4	3	17	1	16	5.3	1	16	4.0
Henery, Alex	12	1	9	0	9	9.0	0	9	0.8
McNeill, Mike	12	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Paul, Niles	12	1	0	6	-6	-6.0	0	0	-0.5
TEAM	4	5	0	9	-9	-1.8	0	0	-2.2
Wesch, Jake	12	1	0	9	-9	-9.0	0	0	-0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2345</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>2082</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>173.5</b>
<b>Opponent</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>1837</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>1510</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>125.8</b>

Passing	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Ganz, Joe	12	384	266	69.3	10	3332	23	69	277.7
Witt, Patrick	4	8	6	75.0	0	48	0	23	12.0
Lucky, Marlon	11	2	2	100.0	0	24	2	20	2.2
Wesch, Jake	12	1	1	100.0	0	8	0	8	0.7
Lee, Zac	2	2	1	50.0	0	5	0	5	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3417</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>284.8</b>
<b>Opponent</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2828</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>235.7</b>

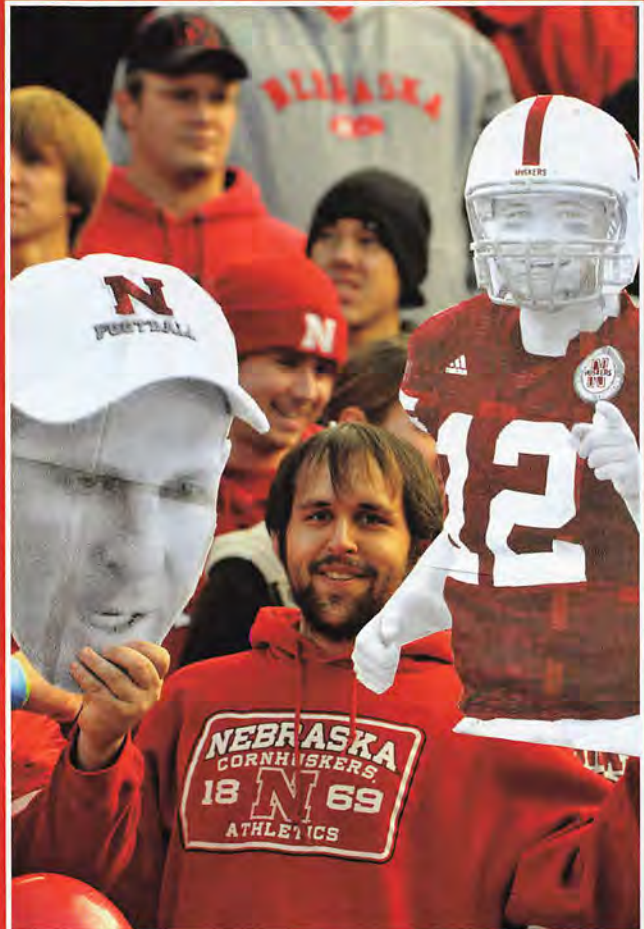
Receiving	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Swift, Nate	12	60	909	15.2	9	67	75.8
Peterson, Todd	12	58	690	11.9	3	36	57.5
McNeill, Mike	12	29	415	14.3	6	53	34.6
Holt, Menelik	11	28	320	11.4	1	25	29.1
Lucky, Marlon	11	22	275	12.5	1	69	25.0
Helu Jr., Roy	12	25	266	10.6	0	27	22.2
Paul, Niles	12	21	201	9.6	0	21	16.8
Young, Dreu	12	9	140	15.6	1	55	11.7
Castille, Q.	12	8	89	11.1	0	31	7.4
Brooks, Chris	11	2	27	13.5	1	25	2.5
Teafatiller, H.	11	3	27	9.0	0	15	2.5
Ganz, Joe	12	1	20	20.0	1	20	1.7
Gilleylen, C.	11	2	11	5.5	0	6	1.0
Hill, Ryan	12	3	9	3.0	1	6	0.8
Mendoza, Marcus	4	2	7	3.5	0	7	1.8
Cammack, Wes	12	1	5	5.0	0	5	0.4
Lawson, Thomas	10	1	4	4.0	0	4	0.4
Suh, Ndamukong	12	1	2	2.0	1	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>3417</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>284.8</b>
<b>Opponent</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>2828</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>235.7</b>

Defense	G	Tack	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Suh, Ndamukong	12	33	35	68	10-61	5-48	3	1	0
Asante, Larry	12	44	20	64	1-4	1-4	4	0	0
Glenn, Cody	9	26	25	51	4-20	0-0	4	1	0
Allen, Pierre	12	20	30	50	6-36	4-26	1	1	0
O'Hanlon, Matt	11	28	18	46	2-5	0-0	4	0	0
Potter, Zach	12	13	30	43	7-50	4-44	6	1	0
Steinkuhler, Ty	12	17	25	42	2-18	1-13	0	0	0
Dillard, P.	8	13	25	38	1-9	0-6	1	0	0
Murillo, A.	12	29	9	38	1-1	0-0	9	0	1
Hagg, Eric	12	27	9	36	2-10	0-0	6	1	1
Amukamara, P.	12	21	13	34	2-12	1-11	3	2	0
Wortman, Tyler	12	15	17	32	5-11	0-0	1	0	0
West, Anthony	11	22	6	28	1-2	1-2	9	0	0
Thorell, Lance	10	15	9	24	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Thenarse, R.	10	16	7	23	4-25	2-21	1	1	0
Lawrence, Blake	9	7	10	17	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Koehler, Colton	6	7	8	15	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Holt, Matt	9	11	3	14	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sievers, C.	12	9	4	13	2-6	1-1	0	1	0
Barfield, S.	11	7	3	10	3-16	3-16	0	0	0
Culbert, Major	6	4	6	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore, Terrence	7	3	5	8	2-11	2-11	0	0	0
Paul, Niles	12	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Cammack, Wes	12	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May, Mathew	7	5	1	6	1-8	1-8	0	1	1
Wald, Mason	12	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Teafatiller, H.	11	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard, Alfonso	11	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Castille, Q.	12	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hays, Mike	12	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner, Barry	2	1	2	3	1-15	1-14	0	0	0

## 2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 30-35
Sat., Oct. 4	#4/3 Missouri	Memorial Stadium	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 11	#7 Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	L, 31-37 (OT)
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	W, 35-7
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	W, 32-20
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	L, 28-62
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	W, 45-35
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	W, 56-28
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	W, 40-31
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo.	7 p.m. (ABC) (Arrowhead Stadium)

## FAN OF THE GAME



John Augustine of Omaha, Neb., made larger than life photos of Coach Pelini and Joe Ganz as cheering props.









# FULL CONTACT

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

**P**aul Velander recalled one day of Nebraska's pre-season basketball workouts inside the Hawks Championship Center.

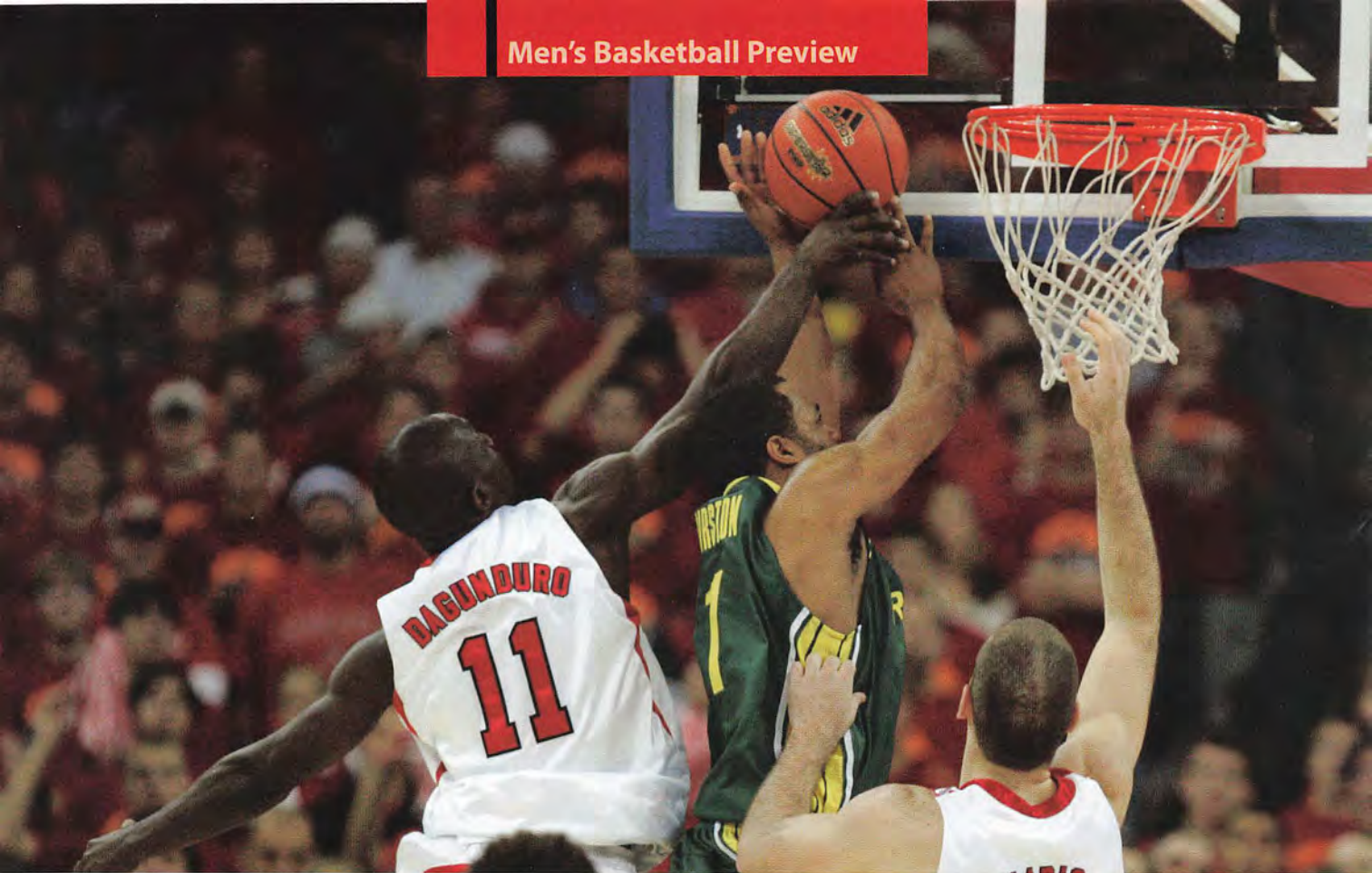
The Huskers were preparing for another grueling conditioning session when teammate Ade Dagunduro picked up a football. Standing on the 50-yard line, Dagunduro stepped back and rifled the football downfield, through the uprights.

"And he hit the back of the wall," Velander said.

Why expect anything less from a former high school quarterback?

Dagunduro, a senior on the Nebraska men's basketball team, actually played on both sides of the ball when he played football at Inglewood High School in California.





Football is the sport of the family, Dagunduro said. Husker fans will remember his brother, Ola Dagunduro, who played defensive tackle at Nebraska from 2005-06. Ola had a brief NFL career and is now coaching as the defensive coordinator for the freshman team at Highland High School in California. That's where younger brother Olayinka Dagunduro plays football.

Ade Dagunduro, though, gave up football after his junior season of high school. It's one of his biggest regrets, he said, not playing through his senior season.

"I had big dreams in football, but I had to give it up to pursue this basketball career," Dagunduro said. "It worked out fine, though, so I'm happy."

But sometimes, the football instincts kick in on the basketball court.

"I love hitting people," said Dagunduro, who also played safety. "That's why I pick up so many fouls here. I never can get rid of that contact mentality."

It's the competitive mentality Doc Sadler and the Huskers are looking for this season from Dagunduro, a 6-5 wing who's arguably the

team's most athletic player.

Dagunduro is one of two scholarship seniors – the other being Steve Harley – who's only in his second season with the Huskers. A junior college transfer, it took both Dagunduro and Harley much of last season to grow into their roles, feel comfortable and truly display their capabilities.

Sadler expected as much. It's what the late Don Haskins, the legendary coach at UTEP (formerly known as Texas Western), told Sadler about signing junior college players.

"Coach always told me," Sadler said, "(to) do it with the understanding that it's going to take them eight or 10 games to get ready to play at the level they need to play at."

Sadler stuck with Dagunduro and Harley, and both players were playing at a high level by the end of last season, when the Huskers were pushing eventual national-champion Kansas in the Big 12 Tournament and gaining momentum in the National Invitation Tournament.

"We know what it takes now," Dagunduro said. "We know we have to get off to an early start and maintain the level of consistency."

In other words, no games in which both



"I love hitting people. That's why I pick up so many fouls here. I never can get rid of that contact mentality."

**ADE DAGUNDURO**



Dagunduro and Harley are held scoreless. That happened in a 55-51 loss last season at Colorado.

For Dagunduro, that was the beginning of a slump. It was his second straight game he was held scoreless, contributing to his 5.8 scoring average in Big 12 games. He was 5-of-23 in his first four Big 12 games.

"Once the Big 12 Conference hit, the level of intensity picked up a notch I wasn't prepared for," Dagunduro said. "That was the first game where I had zero points in my life. That was a rude awakening.

"I was playing as if I needed to score a lot of points to have a good game, rather than just trying to be as good as I can in every aspect of the game."

Dagunduro scored 13, 15 and 16 points in Nebraska's final three games. Over Nebraska's final eight games, he averaged 10.5 points, almost double his conference average.

"I kicked it up a lot on the defensive end," he said, "and I let my offense come to me."

Points would be nice from Dagunduro, but Sadler will especially need his senior wing man to crash the boards. Nebraska is height-challenged, and the Huskers will need their athleticism to contend for defensive rebounds.

"We've got to counter our lack of height with toughness on defense," Dagunduro said. "We've got to be tough, and our guards have to rebound." **N**



## 2008-09 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT, TV, TIME
Fri., Nov. 7	<b>CHADRON STATE (EXH.), W, 85-54</b>
Sun., Nov. 16	<b>San Jose State, W, 63-46</b>
Wed., Nov. 19	at TCU, W 62-50
Sat., Nov. 22	<b>ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF, W, 67-53</b>
Tue., Nov. 25	<b>SAINT LOUIS, W, 71-57</b>
Sat., Nov. 29	<b>CREIGHTON, 7 p.m.</b>
Wed., Dec. 3	<b>ALABAMA STATE, 7 p.m.</b>
Sunday, Dec. 7	at Arizona State Tempe, Ariz. TBA
Sat., Dec. 13	at Oregon State Corvallis, Ore. TBA
Sat., Dec. 20	<b>IPFW, 7 p.m.</b>
Tue., Dec. 23	<b>UMBC, 7 p.m.</b>
Tue., Dec. 30	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA STATE, 7 p.m.</b>
Sat., Jan. 3	<b>MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE, 2 p.m.</b>
Mon., Jan. 5	<b>FLORIDA A&amp;M, 7 p.m.</b>
Sat., Jan. 10	<b>MISSOURI, ESPN2 2 p.m.</b>
Wed., Jan. 14	at Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 17	<b>KANSAS STATE, Big 12 Network 5 p.m.</b>
Wed., Jan. 21	at Oklahoma, ESPNU 8 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 24	<b>OKLAHOMA STATE, Big 12 Network 3 p.m.</b>
Wed., Jan. 28	<b>KANSAS, ESPN2 6:30 p.m.</b>
Sat., Jan. 31	at Texas Tech, Big 12 Network 7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 4	at Colorado, TBA
Sat., Feb. 7	<b>TEXAS, ESPN 1 p.m.</b>
Sat., Feb. 14	at Missouri, Big 12 Network 12:30 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 18	<b>COLORADO, ESPNU 8 p.m.</b>
Sat., Feb. 21	at Kansas, Big 12 Network 3 p.m.
Tue., Feb. 24	<b>TEXAS A&amp;M, ESPN2 8:30 p.m.</b>
Sat., Feb. 28	at Kansas State, Big 12 Network 7 p.m.
Wed., March 4	<b>IOWA STATE, 6:30 p.m.</b>
Sat., March 7	at Baylor, Big 12 Network 3 p.m.
March 11-14	at Big 12 Championship, Big 12 Network

## 2008-09 MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	PO.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
1	Jones, Eshaunte	G	6-4	180	Fr.	Fort Wayne, Ind. (Hargrave Military (Va.) Academy) (North Side)
2	Krenk, Nick	G	6-0	185	Sr.	Nebraska City, Neb. (Nebraska City)
3	Richardson, Brandon	G	6-0	190	RFr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Hawthorne)
4	Harley, Steve	G	5-11	180	Sr.	Temple Hills, Md. (South Plains (Texas) College) (Marriott)
5	Henry, Sek	G	6-3	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Patterson School (N.C.)) (Lynwood)
11	Dagunduro, Ade	G	6-5	200	Sr.	Inglewood, Calif. (Antelope Valley CC) (Inglewood)
12	Karn, Matt	G	6-3	190	Jr.	Philpot, Ky. (Shawnee (Ill.) CC) (Ohio County)
13	Ferrarini, Ross	G	6-2	175	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
14	Niemann, Christopher	C	6-11	265	Fr.	Kühlungsborn, Germany (Erdgas Ehingen/Urspringschule)
15	Edwards, Alonzo	F	6-7	230	RFr.	Houston, Texas (Klein Forest)
24	Miller, Cookie	G	5-7	165	So.	Charleston, W. Va. (Harmony Community (Ohio) School) (Capital)
25	Velander, Paul	G	6-2	200	Sr.	Blacksburg, Va. (Blacksburg)
30	McCray, Toney	G	6-6	205	RFr.	Missouri City, Texas (Fort Bend Elkins)
31	Chapman, Alex	F	6-9	240	RSO.	Canby, Ore. (Sheridan (Wyo.) College) (Canby)
32	Balham, Chris	F	6-8	235	Jr.	Kansas City, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)
34	Wicklund, Andrew	G	6-5	170	So.	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Rampart)
35	Nelson, Ben	F	6-8	230	Jr.	Atwater, Minn. (Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City)
43	Salomon, Cole	G	6-5	220	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Millard North)
44	Anderson, Ryan	G	6-4	205	Jr.	Seattle, Wash. (Rainier Beach)

**Head Coach:** Doc Sadler (Arkansas, 1982); 37-27 in two seasons at Nebraska; 85-45 in four seasons as Division I head coach 205-84 career record in nine seasons as head coach

**Assistant Coaches:** Philip Mathews (UC Irvine, 1970), David Anwar (Fitchburg College, 1998), Walter Roesse (BYU-Hawaii, 1994)

**Director of Operations:** Chris Croft **Video Coordinator:** Jim Shaw **Basketball Strength Coach:** Rusty Ruffcorn

**Equipment Manager:** Pat Norris **Team Manager/Player Development:** Bill Shaw **Graduate Athletic Trainer:** R.J. Pietig





## ADE DAGUNDURO

Inglewood, Calif. • Inglewood HS • Antelope Valley College

Dagunduro is Nebraska's most athletic player, and arguably one of the most athletic guards in the Big 12 Conference. The senior has amazing leaping ability, which he'll need to display to give this height-challenged team a boost in rebounding. He's a strong defender who will be key in Nebraska's press.

**11**  
Senior  
Guard  
6-5, 200



## RYAN ANDERSON

Seattle, Wash. • Rainier Beach HS

Anderson is only 6-4 but again will play the forward position this season. He's become used to banging with big bodies, and he's become a good rebounder in the process. Anderson is a pure 3-point shooter – he's the only player in Nebraska history to hit at least 48 3-pointers in each of his first two seasons.

**44**  
Junior  
Guard  
6-4, 205



## STEVE HARLEY

Temple Hills, Md. • Marriott HS • South Plains (TX) College

With Aleks Maric gone, Harley is Nebraska's top returning scorer from last season, when he averaged 9.1 points. That average was a bit higher in conference play (11.2) as Harley was slow to find an offensive flow as a junior college transfer. He was 48 percent from 3-point range last season but is more comfortable from mid-range.

**4**  
Senior  
Guard  
5-11, 180



## BRANDON RICHARDSON

Los Angeles, Calif. • Hawthorne HS

Richardson, who redshirted last season, will be a key player off the bench for the Huskers. He's a strong perimeter shooter who can play either point guard or off guard, but his defensive prowess and competitive attitude might be his biggest strengths. Richardson collected two steals in the backcourt late in the Cornhuskers' season-opener, providing a big spark.

**3**  
Redshirted Fr.  
Guard  
6-0, 190



## SEK HENRY

Los Angeles, Calif. • Lynwood HS • Patterson (N.C.) School

Henry filled in nicely late last season when starting point guard Cookie Miller suffered a shoulder injury. So nicely, in fact, that Henry has kept the starting role. He's improved offensively, and he has great length, giving Nebraska a defensive advantage, particularly in its full-court press. Henry is the only Husker who has played in every game since Sadler arrived.

**5**  
Junior  
Guard  
6-3, 200



## NEWCOMER SPOTLIGHT ESHAUNTE "BEAR" JONES

Fort Wayne, Ind. • North Side HS • Hargrave Military Academy

The only true freshman on the team, Jones can give Nebraska a scoring lift off the bench, particularly from 3-point range. Sadler says Jones' defense needs work, but that his offensive game is ahead of what he expected this soon. Jones, though, has a foot injury that will eventually require surgery – he could play a few games and take a medical redshirt.

**1**  
Freshman  
Guard  
6-4, 180



## TONEY MCCRAY

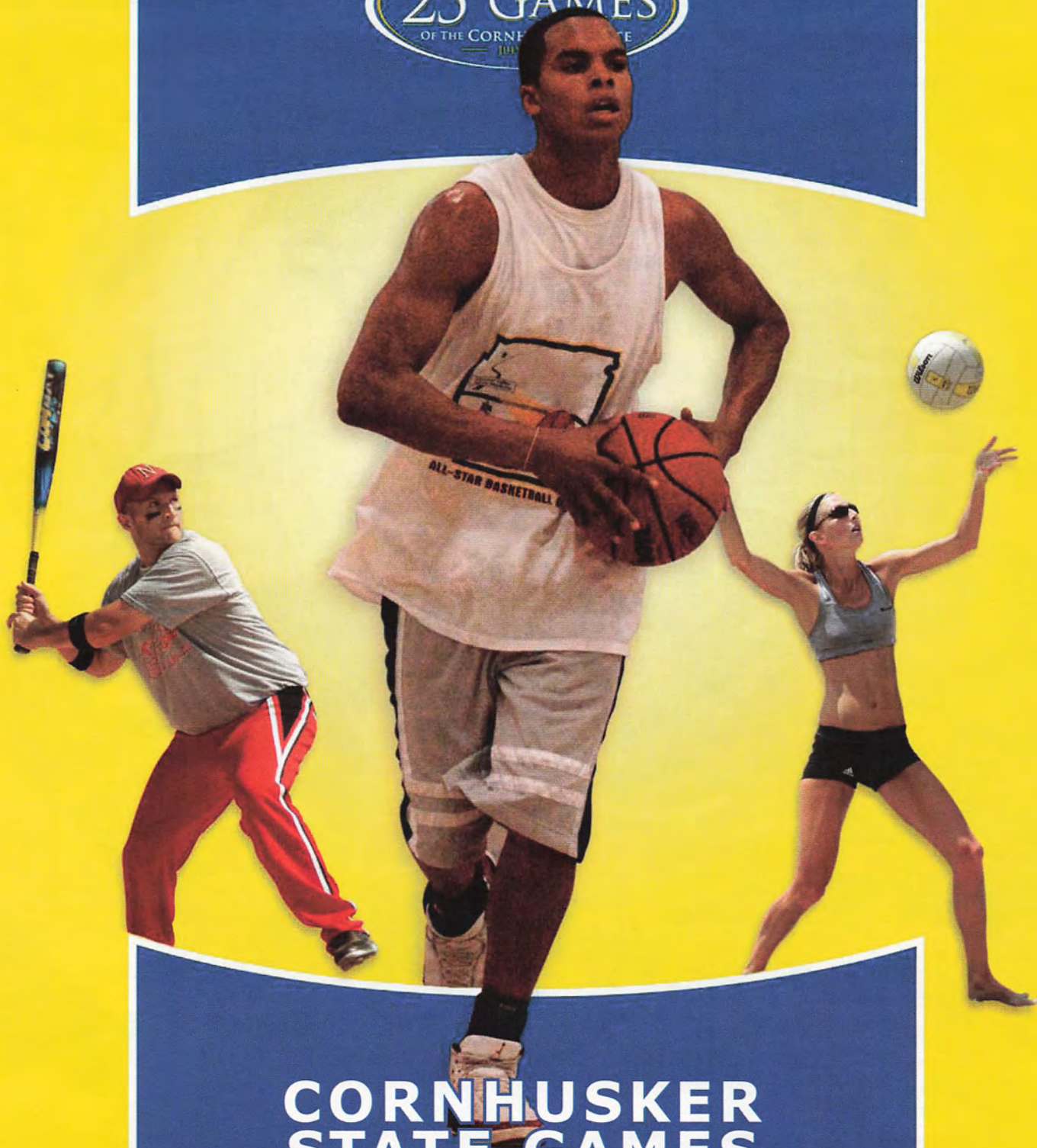
Missouri City, Texas • Fort Bend Elkins HS

Sadler says McCray is Nebraska's most talented player. The redshirted freshman guard is coming off the bench for now, but it might be hard to keep him out of the starting lineup. McCray can score from anywhere on the court and is a solid rebounder. He needs to improve defensively to satisfy his coach, and he's prone to foul trouble.

**30**  
Redshirted Fr.  
Guard  
6-6, 205







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# TRUE LOVE

BY TOMMY DAHLK

**D**uring her sophomore year at Bellevue, Neb., East High School, Nebraska point guard Yvonne Turner fell madly in love – with defense.

"My coach in high school was like 'you can get into so many people's heads on defense and create for your offense,' " Turner said. "Ever since then, I've been head-over-heels for defense."

To this day, Turner remains completely enamored with defense. Last season as a sophomore, her league-leading 2.6 steals per game in conference play and ability to shut down opposing point guards earned her a spot on the Big 12 All-Defensive Team. Only five players received this honor.





Although defense is her first love, Turner is expected to give offense more attention than ever this year.

With senior standout forward Kelsey Griffin's health status this season in limbo, multiple Huskers need to step up on the offensive end and replace the 20 points per game Griffin brings.

Head coach Connie Yori said Turner's scoring will be vital to the Husker attack.

"It's been an evolution for her," Yori said. "Now we are relying on her to score more. We think she can definitely upgrade as a scorer."

Turner might be known for her defensive prowess, but she's no slouch on the offensive end, either.

Last season, she really started to come into her own offensively. She was the Huskers' third-leading scorer, averaging 8.4 points per game. In conference play, she bumped her scoring average to 9.8.

Once the Huskers entered Big 12 play last winter, Turner really got comfortable with her

3-point shot and hit 39.3 percent from 3-point range.

Yori said all of Turner's practice paid off.

"She's a significantly better shooter," Yori said. "When she got here, her balance was poor and her footwork was inconsistent. She's worked hard on her shot, and it comes out of her hand so much better now."

Turner's offensive confidence reached new heights in the NCAA Tournament. Against top-seeded Maryland and All-America guard Kristi Tolliver, Turner scored a career-high 23 points, dished out six assists and was 5-of-9 on 3-pointers. Her five 3's were a Nebraska NCAA Tournament record.

As the Huskers wait patiently for Griffin to get healthy, Turner will most likely be the Huskers' No. 1 scoring option early in the season.

In her first stint as the go-to player in an exhibition against the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Turner scored 28 points.

Because of Griffin's injury, Turner is



"She's a significantly better shooter. When she got here, her balance was poor and her footwork was inconsistent."

**CONNIE YORI ON YVONNE TURNER**



frequently looking for her shot. Since opponents now fear her 3-point shot, Turner said she's looking to drive and get to the free throw line more often.

Knowing when or when not to look for her shot is what Turner is still learning to grasp as she evolves into a bona-fide scoring threat.

"I'm going to have to make better and quicker decisions on whether I have the green light to shoot," Turner said. "I have to be more aggressive, not necessarily a gunner, but shooting more when it's the right time."

Obviously, Turner has to help pick up Griffin's scoring. However, Turner said that isn't the biggest burden Griffin's void brings.

Turner said Griffin is a great leader, and her presence on the court makes everyone more confident.

As a point guard, Turner has to make everybody look good and facilitate the offense. Without Griffin to turn to, her job as the floor general is much tougher.

The Huskers now need their junior point guard to run the offense, be the No. 1 scoring threat and still provide top-notch defense.

Yes, there is a lot on Turner's plate right now. But all of the Huskers are trying to help fill Griffin's void, not just Turner.

"When the injury happened, Coach told us that everybody has to step their game up no matter if she's coming back or not," Turner said. "She (Yori) really told everybody and not just myself that we have to step up and be a better leader than we were before. If we don't have our star player, somebody has to pick up her 20 points a game and her 10 rebounds a game. Everybody is focusing on being a better leader." **N**



## 2008-09 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT, TV, TIME
<b>Fri., Oct. 31</b>	<b>CHADRON STATE (EXH.), W, 102-30</b>
Wed., Nov. 5	vs. NEBRASKA-KEARNEY (EXH.), W, 80-69
<b>Fri., Nov. 14</b>	<b>WEBER STATE, W, 96-47</b>
Mon., Nov. 17	at Creighton, W, 72-67
<b>Sat., Nov. 22</b>	<b>SOUTHERN UTAH, W, 65-57</b>
Mon., Nov. 24	at Denver, W, 76-55
Fri., Nov. 28	vs. Butler, 6 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 29	New Mexico/William & Mary, 6 or 8 p.m.
<b>Tue., Dec. 2</b>	<b>ORAL ROBERTS, 7:05 p.m.</b>
<b>Sat., Dec. 6</b>	<b>OHIO STATE, Noon</b>
<b>Tue., Dec. 9</b>	<b>CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD, 7:05 p.m.</b>
<b>Fri., Dec. 12</b>	<b>LONG BEACH STATE, 7:05 p.m.</b>
Sat., Dec. 20	at UTEP, 2 p.m.
<b>Sun., Dec. 28</b>	<b>ARIZONA STATE, Noon</b>
Thu., Jan. 1	at LSU, 1 p.m.
<b>Sat., Jan. 10</b>	<b>OKLAHOMA, 7:05 p.m.</b>
Wed., Jan. 14	at Texas, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 17	at Missouri, 5 p.m.
<b>Wed., Jan. 21</b>	<b>KANSAS, 7:05 p.m.</b>
<b>Sat., Jan. 24</b>	<b>IOWA STATE, 8 p.m.</b>
Tue., Jan. 27	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 31	at Colorado, 2 p.m.
<b>Wed., Feb. 4</b>	<b>BAYLOR, 7:05 p.m.</b>
Sun., Feb. 8	at Texas A&M, 2 p.m.
<b>Sat., Feb. 14</b>	<b>TEXAS TECH, Noon</b>
Wed., Feb. 18	at Iowa State, 7 p.m.
<b>Sat., Feb. 21</b>	<b>MISSOURI, 7:05 p.m.</b>
<b>Wed., Feb. 25</b>	<b>KANSAS STATE, 7:05 p.m.</b>
Sat., Feb. 28	at Kansas, 7 p.m.
<b>Tue., Mar. 3</b>	<b>COLORADO, 7:05 p.m.</b>
Sat., Mar. 7	at Oklahoma State, 6 p.m.
March 12-15	at Big 12 Championship

## 2008-09 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	PO.	HT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
5	Burke, Kaitlyn	G	5-7	So.	North Vancouver, British Columbia (National Elite Development Academy - Ontario)
11	Neals, Nicole	G	5-6	Jr.	Chandler, Ariz. (St. Mary's)
12	Reeves, Layne	G	5-11	Fr.	Lubbock, Texas (Trinity Christian)
13	Kuhlmann, Kala	G	5-8	Jr.	Charter Oak, Iowa (Charter Oak-Ute)
15	Whittaker, Monique	G	5-10	So.	Onalaska, Texas (Livingston)
21	Sidhu, Harleen	F	6-1	Fr.	Surrey, British Columbia (Fleetwood)
22	Turner, Yvonne	G	5-8	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Bellevue East)
23	Griffin, Kelsey	F	6-2	Sr.	Eagle River, Alaska (Chugiak)
24	Kelley, Dominique	G	5-7	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
32	Hester, Tay	G	5-10	Sr.	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Mt. San Antonio College) (Perris)
35	Periago, Jessica	C	6-4	So.	Toulon, France
40	Montgomery, Cory	F	6-2	Jr.	Cannon Falls, Minn. (Cannon Falls)
42	Bober, Nikki	C	6-4	Jr.	Murdock, Neb. (Elmwood-Murdock)
44	Redmon, Catheryn	C	6-3	So.	Grand Prairie, Texas (Mansfield Timberview)

**Head Coach:** Connie Yori (Creighton, 1986)

**Associate Head Coach:** Sunny Smallwood (Boise State, 1983)

**Assistant Coaches:** Tory Verdi (Keene State, 1996), Kellie Lewis-Jay (Boise State, 1998)

**Director of Operations:** Angela Timmons (Creighton, 2000) **Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator:** Shawn Gilbert (Nebraska-Kearney, 1992)

**Graduate Assistant Manager:** Ashley Ford (Nebraska, 2008)





## TAY HESTER

Moreno Valley Calif. • Perris HS • Mt. San Antonio College

**32**  
Senior  
Guard  
5-10

As a junior college transfer last season, Hester started all 33 games and averaged 6.5 points, 4.1 rebounds and two assists. She's one of Nebraska's best overall athletes and is a great slasher from the wing position. The Huskers will be counting on her rebounding, particularly on the defensive end. She's a good on-ball defender



## KAITLYN BURKE

North Vancouver, British Columbia • National Elite Development Academy (Ontario)

**5**  
Sophomore  
Guard  
5-7

Burke was Nebraska's top guard off the bench last season, behind Tay Hester, Yvonne Turner and Dominique Kelley, although she actually saw more playing time than Kelley – an example of how deep and talented the Huskers' backcourt has become. Burke is a streaky 3-point shooter with a quick release. She can play up front on Nebraska's full-court press.



## CORY MONTGOMERY

Cannon Falls, Minn. • Cannon Falls HS

**40**  
Junior  
Forward  
6-2

Nebraska was counting on big things from Montgomery even before Kelsey Griffin's injury. Now with Griffin possibly missing the season, Montgomery's role becomes even bigger. She averaged 9.4 points and 4.5 rebounds as a sophomore, and she's a threat to score down low, from mid-range and beyond 3-point range.



## HUSKER SPOTLIGHT DOMINIQUE KELLEY

Lincoln, Neb. • Northeast HS

**24**  
Sophomore  
Guard  
5-7

Kelley, a Lincoln native, started more games than any freshman in school history last season, when she started all 33 games. She is a strong on-ball defender and fits in well with Nebraska's defensive philosophy. Kelly averaged 6.4 points last season and is working to improve her offensive game.



## KALA KUHLMANN

Charter Oak, Iowa • Charter Oak-Ute HS

**13**  
Junior  
Guard  
5-8

Kuhlman was a key player off the bench last season. She's a strong 3-point shooter who is increasing her range, and she's also a smart player who makes those around her better. A good passer who makes sound decisions, Kuhlmann had 45 assists to 38 turnovers.



## YVONNE TURNER

Omaha, Neb. • Bellevue East HS

**22**  
Junior  
Guard  
5-8

Turner had a breakout sophomore season as Nebraska's point guard, when she led the Huskers with 81 steals. That earned her one of five spots on the Big 12 Conference's All-Defensive Team. She's also become a 3-point threat, as she shot 39.3 percent from beyond the arc last season, when she averaged 8.4 points per game.



## HARLEEN SIDHU

Surrey, British Columbia • Fleetwood HS

**21**  
Freshman  
Forward  
6-1

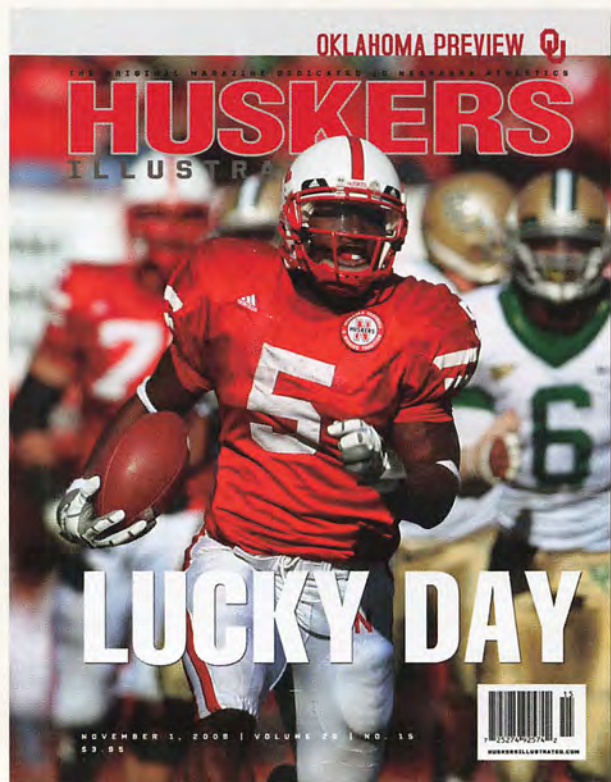
Sidhu, the third Canadian in Nebraska's program in the last five years, could be a big-impact freshman, especially with the potential loss of Kelsey Griffin. Sidhu showed her potential in an exhibition game when she had 10 points and eight rebounds in 13 minutes. She's a versatile scorer who averaged 31 points her junior season of high school and 26 points as senior.



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AMANDA JEFFRIES



## WOMEN'S RIFLE Rejuvenated Jeffries enjoying success

BY TOMMY DAHLK

**A**manda Jeffries' mom gets a little flack about her daughter from co-workers. Yeah, that tends to happen when you work at the University of Oklahoma and your daughter is a junior on the Nebraska rifle team.

Jeffries said becoming a Husker after living in Norman, Okla., really wasn't too bad. In fact, she said her family might be the only one there that isn't crazy about the Sooners' football team.

"My family wasn't too big into football growing up, so coming to Nebraska really didn't bother me," Jeffries said.

Last season, Jeffries was a second-team All American in air rifle and hasn't missed a beat

so far this year. Jeffries has been the highest-scoring Husker in air rifle in all six matches. In wins against Army and Air Force, Jeffries led the Huskers in combined points between air rifle and smallbore. Jeffries also was the highest-scoring Husker in smallbore against Kentucky.

Jeffries said she owes her early success this season to her off-season practice. Ironically, for the first time in her career, she didn't pick up a gun too often all spring and summer.

The time off was just what Jeffries needed, and she took a couple of summer classes instead of shooting constantly.

"You do it so much and every day and it just gets so tiring sometimes," Jeffries said. "So I think I just needed a break. I didn't practice at all after the NCAA Championships last year. It really hasn't been that hard to get back into."



With a rejuvenated attitude, Jeffries and the Huskers expect to improve on last year's fourth-place finish at the NCCA Championships. Jeffries has liked what she's seen out of the young rifle team this year.

"I think we are building up to the NCAA's right now," she said. "We have shown lots of improvement." **N**

#### 2008-09 WOMEN'S RIFLE ROSTER

Costello, Christine	AR, SB	Jr.
Queen Creek, Ariz. (Queen Creek)		
Jeffries, Amanda	AR, SB	Jr.
Norman, Okla.		
Kostal, Katie	AR, SB	Fr.
Bay City, Mich. (Bay City Central)		
Lane, Ashley	AR, SB	So.
Grand Rapids, Minn. (Grand Rapids)		
Mahloch, Sheena	AR, SB	Fr.
Plymouth, Neb. (Tri-County)		
McGough, Ryann	AR, SB	So.
LaPorte, Colo. (Poudre)		

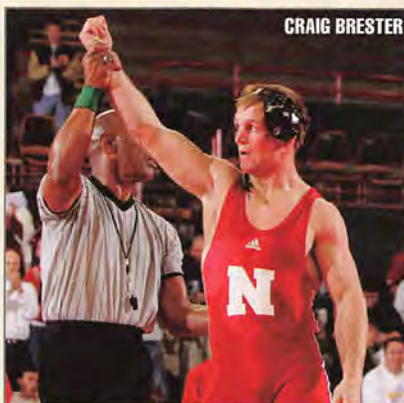
AR = Air Rifle  
SB = Smallbore

#### 2008-09 WOMEN'S RIFLE SCHEDULE

Oct. 5	at Nevada	4,563-4,651 (L)
Oct. 10	Army	4,619-4,600 (W)
Oct. 12	Air Force	4,610-4,584 (W)
Oct. 25	vs. Kentucky	4,606-4,670 (L)
	at Fairbanks, Alaska	
Oct. 26	at Alaska-Fairbanks	4,595-4,647 (L)
Nov. 9	at Murray St.	4,602-4,541 (W)
Jan. 16	at West Virginia, 9 a.m.	
Jan. 17	vs. N.C. State, 9 a.m.	
	at Morgantown, W.V.	
Jan. 23	Ole Miss, 9 a.m.	
Jan. 25	TCU, 9 a.m.	
Feb. 7	Memphis, 9 a.m.	
Feb. 14-15	at NCAA Qualifiers, 9 a.m.	
	at Murray, Ky.	
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	GARC Championships	
	at Oxford, Miss.	9 a.m.
Mar 13-15	NCAA Championships, 9 a.m.	
	at TBA	



## HUSKER QUICK HITS



CRAIG BRESTER

### OPENING VICTORY

Nebraska's No. 6-ranked wrestling team opened with a 29-15 dual victory against Tennessee-Chattanooga at the NU Coliseum. The Huskers have now opened 14 consecutive seasons by winning. Junior All-American Craig Brester led the way, pinning his opponent in 2 minutes, 45 seconds of the 197-pound match. Brester scored a takedown 19 seconds into the match and a three-point nearfall 26 seconds later, before taking the fall with 15 seconds remaining in the period.

#### The results:

157 pounds: No. 3 Jordan Burroughs (NU) major decision, 17-7, No. 19 Joe Knox; 165 pounds: No. 5 Stephen Dwyer (NU) decision, 9-3, Seth Garvin; 174 pounds: No. 3 Brandon Browne (NU) decision, 12-6, Jason McCroskey; 184 pounds: Levi Wofford (NU) major decision, 15-3, Kyle McKee; 197 pounds: No. 4 Craig Brester (NU) fall, 2:45, Ethan Winel; 285 pounds: Tucker Lane (NU) decision, 5-3, Cody Sliger; 125 pounds: Paul Garza (TC) by forfeit; 133 pounds: Patrick Aleksanyan (NU) by forfeit; 141 pounds: No. 4 Cody Cleveland (TC) fall, 5:38, Curtis Salazar; 149 pounds: Dan Waddell (TC) decision, 11-4, Brian Litch.

### FUTURE HUSKERS

Husker wrestling coach Mark Manning signed six student-athletes to letters of intent in mid-November. "They add to a great recruiting class we had last year," Manning said.

Kyle Waldo, Rockford, Mich. – He's attempting to become Michigan's 14th four-time high school champion this winter, earning titles at 103 pounds as a freshman and sophomore and at 112 pounds as a

junior, with a career record of 121-3. He is among InterMat's top 100 recruits for 2009 (No. 96). He's projected to wrestle at 125 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

David Klingsheim, Brentwood, Calif. – He's attempting to become the 18th high school wrestler to finish in the top eight in four California state championship meets. He was the state champion at 112 pounds last season, with a 51-5 record. He's No. 62 in InterMat's top 100. He's also projected to wrestle at 125 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

Cody Compton, Bonne Terre, Mo. – The younger brother of Cornhusker freshman football player Will Compton has a 111-6 career record and three consecutive top-five finishes in the Missouri high school championships. He placed fifth at 152 pounds last season, with a 34-3 record. He's projected to wrestle at 157 to 165 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

Caleb Kolb, Grove City, Pa. – No. 78 in InterMat's top 100, he's a two-time state qualifier, finishing third at 160 pounds with a 39-5 record last season. He's the son of Jon Kolb, who played 13 NFL seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers and earned four Super Bowl rings. He's projected to wrestle at 174 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

Michael Klinginsmith, Kearney, Neb. – A 4.0 student, he has won high school state championships the past two seasons, at 145 pounds as a sophomore and 152 pounds as a junior. His career record is 123-7, including 83-0 the past two seasons. He's projected to wrestle at 157 to 165 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

C.J. Napier, Columbus, Kan. – Wrestling for his father, he has earned Class 4A titles the past two seasons at 135 pounds. He's No. 65 in InterMat's top 100 recruits, with a career record of 108-9. He's projected to wrestle at 133 pounds for the Cornhuskers.

### GOLF SIGNEE

Husker women's golf coach Robin Krapf announced the signing of Erin Sharpee to a letter of intent in mid-November. Sharpee was among seven to earn first-team all-state recognition from the Wisconsin High School Golf Coaches Association in the fall of 2008, leading Green Bay Notre Dame to a third consecutive Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association team title.

She was individual runner-up with a 36-hole total 150.



# Volleyball



## Plans for McNeal don't change after loss of Cooper

BY BOB HAMAR

It's been a fast first season for Nebraska freshman Allison McNeal. It's been a season full of learning about new techniques, a new city and getting used to Division I volleyball.

What McNeal hasn't done is play in a real volleyball match.

The 6-2 middle blocker from Schulenburg, Texas, will not play this season.

With senior Amanda Gates and Kori Cooper ahead of her, the Huskers didn't really need her services this year. So McNeal redshirted this season, giving her four more years to play for the Husker program.

"It's been a big change," McNeal said of her redshirt year. "I'm used to being on the court all the time. I guess it's something I had to get used to. You want to get on the court, but you can't."

What McNeal did instead was learn from an All-American. Former Husker player Tracy Stalls is a student coach for the Huskers. Stalls has completed her eligibility, but is still finishing her degree. Stalls' main responsibility with the team is to teach McNeal everything she can.

"Allison McNeal is basically Tracy's shadow," Nebraska coach John Cook said. "She follows Tracy around in practice all day. They play pepper together. She follows her in blocking drills. She follows her in attack drills. They work off to the side."

And McNeal is learning a lot. Before a drill, Stalls will ask McNeal what she needs to do in that drill to get better. McNeal will tell her, then go and do it.

"She's awesome," McNeal said of Stalls. "She's always there every drill, trying to help me correct things and making me better. She's just a mentor. I've improved in a lot of



things technique-wise, blocking, hitting, all kinds of things.”

Cook could have been tempted to pull her out of McNeal out of her redshirt season when junior Kori Cooper was lost for the remainder of the year with a knee injury suffered Nov. 19.

But Cook is adamant that he will not use a year of McNeal's eligibility just for a few matches down the stretch because of her potential down the road.

McNeal certainly isn't the first Husker middle blocker to redshirt as a freshman. The most notable would be Melissa Elmer, a player who Cook says was so inept as a freshman that he considered cutting her from the team.

Cook likes to tell how he would kick Elmer out of drills because she just couldn't perform them. But before she left the program, Elmer was the school's all-time leader in total blocks, an All-American and one of the most prolific blockers in NCAA history.

McNeal is much further along now than Elmer was at this point in her career, but Cook said Elmer's improvement was just an example of how the Huskers train their players.

“Elmer is a great example,” Cook said. “There's somebody who became a great player. She got stronger in our Husker Power, worked really hard and was very coachable.”

The Huskers have had their training program in place for a long time. The program has had a history of recruiting great athletes who were not great volleyball players and turning them into All-Americans. Elmer is one example as is Christina Houghtelling.

Houghtelling was a multi-sport athlete from Cambridge who became an All-American outside hitter and 2005 NCAA Division I Player of the Year.

It's all part of a developmental program that goes back to former Nebraska coach Terry Pettit. Cook got his first taste of it when he was Pettit's assistant from 1989 to 1991.

“I think we train and teach,” Cook said. “I think there are some programs that just recruit and they go play. That's one thing I learned here when I came here as an

assistant. Coach Pettit was recruiting athletes from Nebraska who were multi-sport athletes but they weren't great volleyball players.”

McNeal doesn't really fall into that category. She came to the Nebraska volleyball program rated as the fourth-best senior last year by Prepvolleyball.com., so she was already a pretty good volleyball player.

Now Cook, using that philosophy of training to teach, just wants to make her better. NCAA rule changes haven't really changed that philosophy either.

“A lot of people thought we might fall off when the NCAA came in with all the restrictions with shortened seasons and shortened practice hours,” Cook said. “You just have to continue to train and teach. I think that's a strength of ours. I try to hire coaches who are good teachers and who have that mentality.”

“It's up to the athlete, but part of my job is to make them believe how good they can be. That's one of our goals as coaches is can

we make them better than they really think they can be.”

Although McNeal would like to be playing, she understands that sitting out this season was the right thing to do.

“This year will be a good year for me to get used to things, make some improvement and be ready to play next year if I get the chance,” McNeal said. “I think it's going to be very rewarding when I finally step on the court. It's going to be nice.”

## WERTH HEADLINES CLASS

Cook unveiled his 2009 recruiting class earlier this month. That class consists of Papillion-LaVista outside hitter Gina Mancuso, Ewing middle blocker Hayley Thrasher, libero Megan Pendergast of League City, Texas, and outside hitter Hannah Werth of Springfield, Ill.

Werth is the highest-rated recruit in the class. The 6-1 outside hitter was rated the No. 4 recruit in the nation by Prepvolleyball.com.

In fact, all four of the Husker recruits are rated among the top 70 in the nation by Prepvolleyball.com. Mancuso is No. 20, Pendergast No. 42 and Thrasher No. 67.

Cook said Thrasher will likely redshirt her first season with the program, while Pendergast will join sophomore libero Kayla Banwarth in the back row. He said either Werth or Mancuso would have to fill the spot left by Jordan Larson.

## AWARDS NOT IMPORTANT

It's award season for college volleyball. The All-Big 12 teams and the All-American teams will soon be out.

The Huskers have one sure All-American in Jordan Larson, but Larson said individual awards don't mean much to her or the Huskers.

“Our focus is playing with each other and for each other and not worrying about outside distractions or outside awards,” Larson said. “Ultimately that's not what defines us as a team. We know what everybody brings each day. Outside awards are doing nothing to benefit us. It's just stuff that gets in the way. We've just been focusing on ourselves and what we need to do to control our play.” **N**

### 2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE (23-1, 14-1 BIG 12)

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, W, 3-0
Sept. 13	New Mexico, W, 3-0
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, W, 3-1
Sept. 20	Texas, W, 3-1
Sept. 24	Kansas, W, 3-1
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, W, 3-1
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 4	Colorado, W, 3-0
Oct. 5	*Creighton, W, 3-0
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 12	at Missouri, W, 3-0
Oct. 15	Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, W, 3-0
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 29	at Colorado, L, 1-3
Nov. 1	Iowa State, W, 3-1
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, W, 3-2
Nov. 8	Kansas State, W, 3-0
Nov. 12	Missouri, W, 3-0
Nov. 15	at Kansas, W, 3-0
Nov. 19	at Texas, L, 1-3
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, W 3-0
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals * at Quest Center, Omaha



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES



**OUCH** - Nebraska's **CLAY WHITE**, a sophomore halfback from Toledo, Ohio, is tackled after a 10-yard gain on a pass reception during the Cornhuskers' 7-6 victory against Iowa State at Memorial Stadium on Oct. 4, 1958. Teammate **GUY SAPP** (81), a senior end from Lincoln, Neb., attempts to block the Iowa State defender. The victory was Nebraska's 12th in 13 games against the Cyclones. Iowa State dominated the statistics, but quarterback **GEORGE HARSHMAN**, a senior from Dickerson Run, Pa., teamed with **ROLAND MCDOLE**, a sophomore end also from Toledo, on a 22-yard, fourth-quarter touchdown pass and then kicked the extra point. **DON FRICKE**, a sophomore from Hastings, Neb., blocked Iowa State's extra-point kick for the margin of victory. The Cornhuskers threw only five passes in the game, four of them complete. Coach **BILL JENNINGS'** team would finish the season with a 3-7 record, the other victories coming against Penn State in the opener (14-7) and No. 14 Pittsburgh in the final home game (14-6).

## GAMES REMEMBERED

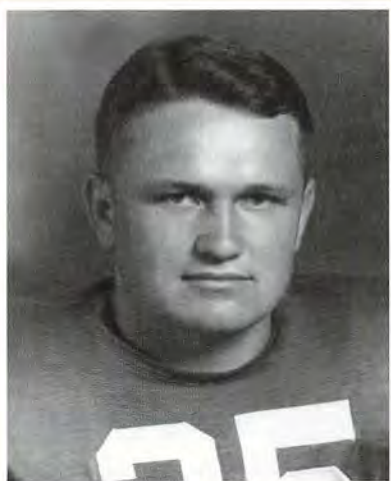
Oct. 28, 1939 at Manhattan, Kan.

### Nebraska 25, Kansas State 9

Nebraska	0	6	12	7	-	25
Kansas State	0	3	0	6	-	9

(KS) Jim Brock 23 field goal  
(N) Herm Rohrig 80 punt return (kick failed)  
(N) Harry Hopp 2 run (kick failed)  
(N) Butch Luther 24 run (kick failed)  
(N) Bob DeFrutier 9 pass Rohrig (Rohrig kick)  
(KS) Frank Barnhardt 13 pass Melvin Seelye (kick failed)

**Attendance:** 15,000 (est.)



What was the first televised game in which the Cornhuskers played? If you answered this one, go to the head of the trivia class. According to the Manhattan Mercury newspaper, Kansas State's Homecoming game was televised for a "limited Nebraska ETV audience that covered a small surrounding area." And the emphasis was on limited.

The Associated Press reported that the "only set in the vicinity equipped to receive such a program, so far as broadcasters know," was in the stadium press box. It "brought in the images perfectly," the story said. "Even the numbers on the players' uniforms were visible."

Most prominent among the Cornhuskers was the one in jersey No. 25, **HERM ROHRIG** (pictured). The junior from Lincoln returned a

punt 80 yards for the game's first touchdown, threw a touchdown pass, kicked an extra point and had two punts of more than 75 yards.

Kansas State finished with a statistical advantage, but couldn't overcome three lost fumbles and a pass interception. Nebraska's final three touchdowns followed turnovers.

The team made the trip by bus to Beatrice on Friday and then took a special train to Manhattan on Saturday morning. A train carrying fans and reporters also left Beatrice that morning but broke down about 3 miles from Manhattan. The train was already 20 minutes behind schedule. Many got off, crossed farm fields to the highway and hitchhiked to town in time for the opening kickoff. The wife of coach **BIFF JONES**, who had never missed a kickoff, was among the hitchhikers. A group of newspaper reporters managed to stop a farm truck carrying cream cans and pay the driver to take them to the stadium in time for the 2 p.m. kickoff.

**BIFF JONES:** "... we have a lot of hard work ahead of us for next week. We made our usual number of mistakes again and the errors will have to be gone over immediately."

**DID YOU KNOW?** Nebraska went into the game ranked No. 10 in the Associated Press poll, established in 1936. Six of the 11 Cornhuskers who started against Kansas State would also start the 1941 Rose Bowl game: Royal Kahler, tackle; Ed Schwartzkopf and Warren Alfson, guards; Robert Burrell, center; Roy Petsch, quarterback; and Butch Luther, halfback. Luther, who was from Cambridge, Neb., would lose his life in World War II. According to Lincoln newspaper writer John Bentley, later Nebraska's sports information director, the crowd was among the largest ever to watch a game at Kansas State. It included the Cornhuskers' 93-member marching band as well as the freshman football team. Nebraska sold 500 student tickets to the game. The game lasted 2 hours.



# CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

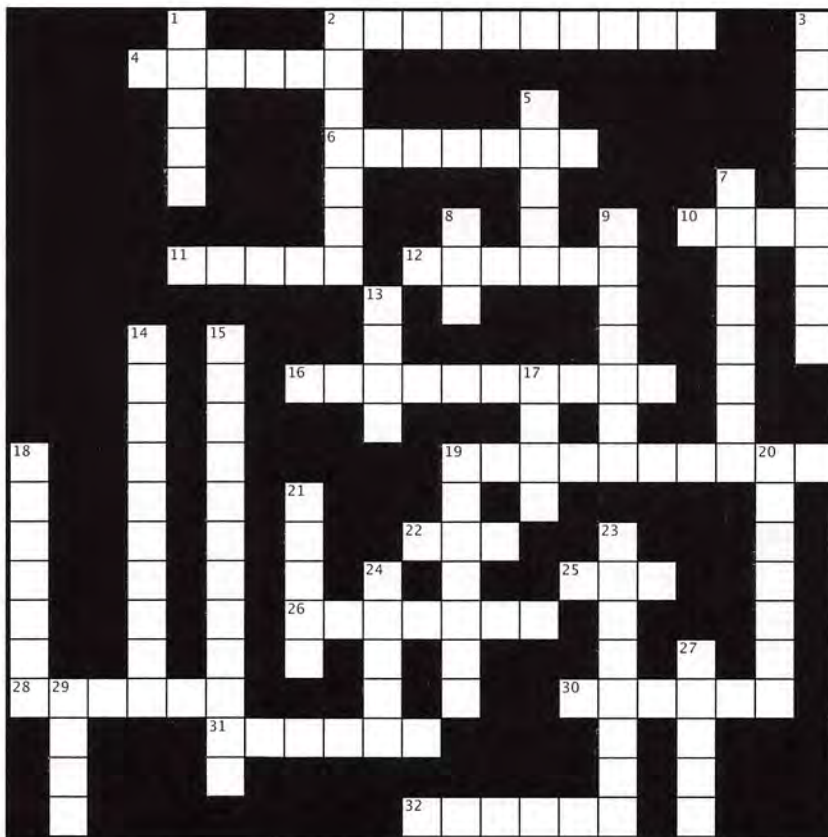
## ACROSS

2. 2010 non-conference road opponent
4. 2001 All-America offensive lineman
6. Wide receivers coach
10. Wears No. 2 (offense)
11. Leading receiver vs. Kansas State
12. Wears No. 4 (defense)
16. Wears No. 7 (defense)
19. City for 2008 Big 12 Championship game
22. Wears No. 3 (offense)
25. NU's 1980 bowl game
26. Wears No. 6 (defense)
28. Ex-Husker and New Orleans linebacker
30. 2006 College Football Hall of Fame inductee
31. 2001 All-America defensive back
32. Wears No. 1 (offense)

## DOWN

1. Wore retired No. 60
2. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
3. 2000 All-America offensive lineman
5. Tight ends coach
7. 2008 Big 12 North Division winner
8. Bo Pelini's previous school
9. Scored first career touchdown vs. Kansas State
13. Wears No. 5 (defense)
14. Former NU secondary coach
15. 2009 non-conference road opponent
17. Leading rusher vs. Kansas State
18. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
19. Leading tackler vs. Kansas State
20. Former NU offensive line coach
21. NU's 2005 bowl game
23. Ex-Husker and New Orleans defensive back
24. 2002 All-America kick returner
27. Ex-Husker and New Orleans offensive lineman
29. Scored NU's first touchdown vs. Kansas State

Answers will appear in January issue



## HUSKERNUTZ



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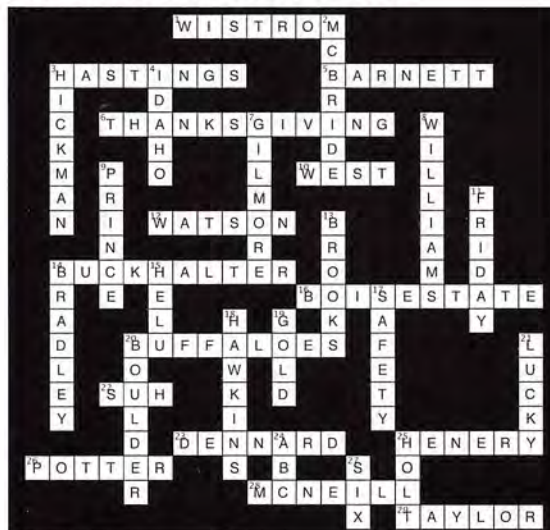
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## NOVEMBER 28 CROSSWORD SOLUTION







## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Emotions run deep for seniors

**WHEN THE GAME** was over, and Nebraska had won 40-31, the father came out of the stands to the field and hugged his son, the quarterback. "I don't think I've ever seen him cry before," Joe Ganz said of his dad, Mike. "It's pretty intense when you see the big man start crying."

The emotion was a result of Joe's having played for the final time at Memorial Stadium.

But the moment they shared involved more than a football game. Mike Ganz told his son he wished his own dad, Joe's grandfather, could have been a part of the bittersweet experience that day after Thanksgiving. Joe's grandfather loved to watch Joe play. But he had passed away some four years before and had never gotten to see his grandson's remarkable rise at Nebraska.

"I think that's what really got him," Joe said of his dad. "It kind of got me, too, caught me off-guard. I thought for sure he'd be the one that wasn't emotional."

The day was one of emotion for all 21 of Nebraska's seniors, each handling it in his own way. They were introduced beforehand, and all served as captains for the day – except Kenny Wilson, who watched the entire season from the sideline because of the effects of a broken leg.

Ganz represented the seniors for the pre-game coin toss, as he represents his class in this column. But that's only because 800 words or so aren't nearly enough to pay proper tribute to his five years as a Cornhusker, much less everyone else's. Each senior has a story of accomplishment,

whether he played a lot or a little during his time at Nebraska, five years or two.

The core of the class, the fifth-year seniors, arrived during the turmoil of a coaching change from Frank Solich to Bill Callahan. Some had been recruited by Solich and staff.

Those in Callahan's first recruiting class saw Nebraska's bowl streak end in his first season and after a measure of success, which included a Big 12 North title in 2006, endured the frustration of last season, when a 4-1 start deteriorated into a 1-6 finish and another holiday season at home.

Exit Callahan and enter Bo Pelini – well, re-enter actually because he was at Nebraska in 2003, when some of the seniors decided to accept scholarships, or to walk on.

"I told the team after the game it was fitting we won that way because they showed resolve all year," Pelini said. "They've showed character. They've looked adversity in the eye and kept coming back. And they did it again today. So it doesn't surprise me."

Ganz has been the embodiment of resolve and perseverance, but again, the same could be said of every senior, from Tyler Wortman to Beau Davis, from Clayton Sievers to Jake Wesch, from Zach Potter to Marion Lucky, who spent Senior Day on the sideline because of injury.

You know the Ganz story by now. And he wouldn't do things any differently if he had the chance, he said during the team's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the game.

"I knew it was going to work out," he

said. "It's been a great career here."

Ganz said he hoped fans cheered and didn't boo when he ran onto the field before the game, a remark humorous in its absurdity. Of course there would be cheers, for all of them.

Anyway, Nebraska forced a punt and took possession, after a Swift fair catch, at its own 26-yard line, trailing 31-30 with 4:35 remaining. As has been apparent throughout the season, "I'm always confident in situations like that, 2-minute drills I really like and kind of thrive in," Ganz said. "I wish it could have been the drive for me, kind of like the defining moment for me."

The first play of the drive was a pass to Todd Peterson, good for 8 yards. But the next three plays were runs by Roy Helu, Jr., for 16 and 25 yards and then no gain. On second-and-10 from the Colorado 25, Ganz was sacked for a 15-yard loss, and after an incomplete pass, intended for tight end Mike McNeill, the Cornhuskers faced fourth-and-25 from the 40-yard line.

From there, a soft-spoken, sophomore kicker, a walk-on no less, was called on. And he delivered for Ganz and the seniors, from a school-record distance. "They deserve to go out that way, (to) make something like that for them is just kind of nice," Alex Henery said.

There's still a bowl game to play. But the seniors were able to finish with a victory at home. And contained within that victory was the emotion of their careers. It came out for players and for families, for those who couldn't be there as well as those who were. **N**



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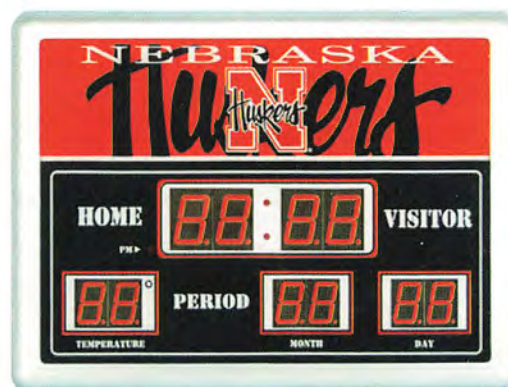
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